

District

Here is the article

WOMEN'S U.S. OPEN

*Juli Inkster coasts
to title in Mississippi. 1C*



A BIGGER VIEW

*Church embraces community
often shunned by others. 5C*



NEW HOME, NEW LOOK

*Salvation Army thrift store
to reopen. 1B*



Good
Morning!

The Tuscaloosa

News

50¢

Vol. 181 • No. 158 • 4 Sections

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1999

Tuscaloosa/Northport and West Alabama

TOP OF THE NATION

Flight data recorder reveals problems

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The flight data recorder on American Airlines Flight 1420 showed the wing flaps that slow the plane on landing did not deploy before it skidded off a runway in a hailstorm and crashed, investigators said Thursday.

The data recorder also showed that the thrust reversers turned on and off rather than remaining engaged throughout the landing.

Investigators do not know if the departure from the typical landing routine was done on purpose by the pilot, or if the plane had mechanical problems before the Tuesday night crash.

The MD-82 jet turned on the runway and broke

Shuttle lands after fixing station

By BETH DICKEY

N.Y. Times News Service

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Seven astronauts were getting their earth legs back on Sunday after an unusual night space-shuttle landing capped their 10-day mission to stock the new international space station.

For only the 11th time in 94 flights, a shuttle swooped out of a star-filled sky to land.

The black-bellied spaceship was visi-

Kennedy Space Center.

Darkness was no challenge for Discovery's commander, Kent Rominger, who found the space center's marsh-bound 15,000-foot runway bathed in bright xenon light as he glided the shuttle to a touchdown after 153 orbits.

The shuttle, with a crew of four men and three women from the United States, Canada and Russia, spent six days docked at the space station.

Astronauts unloaded two tons of supplies for the first permanent occu-

en-hour 55-minute space walk, the second-longest space walk in the shuttle program to mount American and Russian construction cranes.

On Saturday the astronauts released a 19-inch mirrored educational satellite called Starshine. It is designed to twin-ple from space so student volunteers can track its motion to learn principles of physics.

"This was a flawless mission," NASA administrator Daniel Goldin told

people-mover equipped like an emergency room.

The flight director, Linda Ham, and other NASA officials at Mission Control in Houston referred questions about the astronauts' health to public affairs officers at Kennedy, who said they had no information, but added that the astronauts would appear at a news conference at Kennedy on Monday morning before returning to their training base in Houston.

Mothers-in-law have much to answer for. 6C



Life

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Trends
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Monday,
June 7, 1999

A bigger view Living Waters congregation embraces community often shunned by other churches

By MATTHEW MILLER
Staff Writer

NORTHPORT — Like leaders of other small congregations, Susan Lowe works long hours.

Outside of her day job as a cable technician, which keeps her in Birmingham much of the week, she conducts Sunday night services and Wednesday night prayer meetings. She takes classes to fulfill her requirements for ordination. She works with the sick, conducts marriage counseling sessions and takes the occasional 3 a.m. phone call from a church member in crisis.

Lowe's work may be typical, but the message she preaches is not. She has spent a good part of her two-year tenure at Living Waters Metropolitan Community Church telling people that God loves homosexuals.

Living Waters is a church run by and for members of the lesbian and gay community. It's part of a 42,000-member denomination that has ministered to that community for more than 30 years. Founded just four years ago, the local church has provided a place of acceptance and community of faith for those wishing to reconcile their Christian belief with their sexual identity.

That sort of reconciliation is seldom a simple process. Most church members say they have been told from early childhood that one cannot be both gay and Christian, that homosexuality is a sin and to continue living that life would eternally separate them from God.

That's not the message taught at Living Waters. Lowe and her congregation believe that gay men and lesbians have access to God's love just as they are.

In a Sunday evening service last month, Lowe stood before her congregation dressed in white robes with a rainbow-colored sash hung around her neck.

The service, held in one room of a small, gray building on Lurleen Wallace Boulevard, had a slow, ritualistic feel, reminiscent of the Episcopalian style of worship Lowe has known from childhood. There were readings from the Bible by members of the congregation, occasional singing with piano and organ accompaniment. Congregants received the eucharist accompanied by an embrace from Lowe and a prayer.

There was also a sermon. In a measured voice, Lowe preached on the inclusivity of God's love and that, realizing this love, members of the church had a duty to love those who persecute them.

"When we are faced with rejection, when people try to tell us that we do not deserve God's love, we read and we pray," Lowe said. "We read and we pray and we learn."

"Eventually, we spend enough time with the Bible that all the ails get through to us. God loves all of us, and all is inclusive," she said.

"We have to love the people around us," she continued. "We have to love the parents who sometimes can't love us. We have to love those who reject us. We have to love the Baptists, as hard as that sometimes is even for me."

In a recent interview, Lowe said the church is forced to fight battles on several fronts, convincing gays and lesbians their sexual identity need not preclude their religious identity, convincing them that Christianity has something to offer them and convincing the local religious community that Living Waters might have something to offer it as well.

According to Lowe, the first part of that battle is often the most difficult.

"The younger people, college-age kids, most of them have issues," Lowe said. "They've been told you can't be gay and Christian, that they're going to hell. That's how they were brought up."

For some, she said, coming to accept their sexual

Lowe's work may be typical, but the message she preaches is not. She has spent a good part of her two-year tenure at Living Waters Metropolitan Community Church telling people that God loves homosexuals.

identity can be a difficult process. Often they will turn to the church community for guidance.

"I've gotten several midnight calls from college kids freaking out," Lowe said. "They say things like, 'My parents found out I'm gay, what do I do?' I say 'love them in spite of themselves.'"

"You try to meet them and get them through that hard time," she said.

Most older members of the church have come to some point of acceptance.

"Maturity brings wisdom," she said. "Some of the older people may have concerns, but once they find out they're not alone, that there are other people who believe God loves them, that God made them — well, there's comfort in numbers."

Tom, not his real name, a member of Living Waters, said the church had provided him just that sort of comfort.

A retired Navy officer in his 60s, he was a Southern Baptist for the better part of his life. He said he knew he was gay from a fairly young age. His church's teaching on homosexuality, however, raised doubts in his mind about the life he was leading.

"I guess deep down inside I had reservations because I was a Baptist, and they teach you the Baptist line that gays, lesbians and bisexuals are going to you know where," he said.

Tom left the Southern Baptist church several years ago because of that hard-line position. He found Living Waters about a year ago.

"They made me feel comfortable, and I'm comfortable with them," he said. "Susan Lowe has made everything so real to me about what the Bible says about homosexuality."

"We are all God's children, and he accepts us the way we are. It wasn't until I joined MCC that it became crystal clear."

Like Tom, most members of Living Waters grew up with religious backgrounds. Most also left their respective churches after getting the message that homosexuals would not be welcomed there.

"Most of us have been made to feel unwelcome in the church," said Laurie, a 36-year-old woman who works for a local cable company. "We're told that we're sinful. We're told that the only way for us to be acceptable to God is to deny ourselves."

"To me, it seems like you're asked to play a card game when you know the deck is stacked. If God creates you gay and then says 'That's wrong, I'm not going to do it.'"

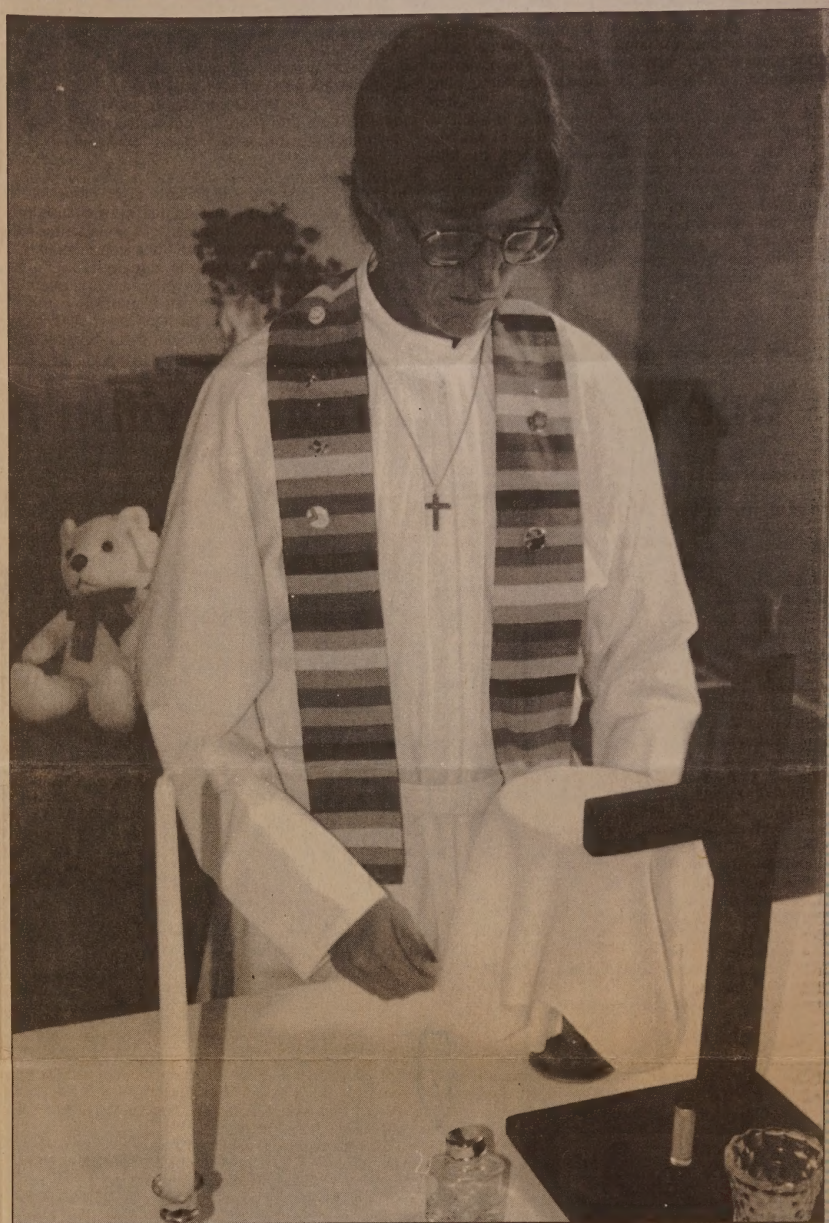
For some, that message came harder than others.

Bill Steele, 53, said he came to Living Waters after being asked to leave a church he had been actively involved in for more than a decade.

Although he had been married for more than 20 years, Steele said he had always known he was gay. When he and his wife divorced, the truth about his sexual identity made its way to members of his old congregation.

One day soon after, two congregation leaders arrived at his home with a letter of resignation they

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Tuscaloosa News/Joe Oliveira

Pastor Susan Lowe of the Living Waters MCC Church prepares for Sunday services.

Church focuses on scriptural inclusiveness

By MATTHEW MILLER
Staff Writer

NORTHPORT — As the pastoral leader of Living Waters Metropolitan Community Church, a church that ministers to members of the gay and lesbian community, Susan Lowe is charged with the task of convincing homosexuals that God loves them.

She would also like to convince other Christians it is possible to be both gay and Christian.

But a history of scriptural interpretation that identifies homosexual activity as sinful must be overcome.

Lowe concedes there are several passages in the Bible that appear to be wholesale condemnations of homosexuality. When placed in their proper context, she said, that is not the case.

Living Waters and other congregations in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches propound a message of inclusivity. They focus on scriptural passages like John 3:16, which reads, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him

shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

The "whosoever," Lowe said, is not qualified. It implies that God's love is open to all, and that includes gays and lesbians.

Further, church members do not ignore those passages that seem to oppose homosexuality.

Lowe offers a class on homosexuality and the Bible for new members. She deals frankly with some of the most problematic passages of scripture for homosexuals.

"It's a time for them to ask questions," Lowe said, "a time to hear other views and to sit there with a Bible in their hands and read it for themselves."

Their take on difficult passages is often very scholarly, relying heavily on placing those scriptures in their historical context, on pointing out the subtle meanings of the Bible's original languages that often get lost in translation.

For instance, Leviticus 18:22 reads "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination." An MCC pamphlet says this passage occurs in the Holiness Code of Leviticus, a ritual

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Courtesy photo

Part of the 'Chicago' cast include Jack Hayes, left, Belle Calaway and Gary Kilmer.

Birmingham native returns with 'Chicago'

By MARK HUGHES COBB
Staff Writer

It's true what they say about New York, New York, says actor Alonzo Saunders: If you can make it there, you can make it anywhere.

"It wises you up; makes you stronger," Saunders said. "But you have to make sure you don't lose the softer side, while you're growing tough as a rock."

The Birmingham-born singer/dancer/Broadway performer will play for many homefolks for the first time this week, as the touring company of "Chicago" hits the BJCC Tuesday through Sunday, as part of the Birmingham Broadway Series.

Although he sang in the church in Birmingham, Saunders really got into performing after moving to Atlanta at the age of 10, cutting his chops as a singer with the Atlanta Boys Choir and studying at a performing arts high school.

He took off on a bus-and-truck tour of "The Wizard of Oz" — playing a member of The Lollipop Guild — then went on to Rhode Island and New Jersey stock work before making his Broadway debut in "Showboat" in 1995.

"That came after many months of starving," he laughed.

Adapting to the Big Apple wasn't that tough, because there are "very few true New Yorkers."

"A lot of Southerners and midwesterners have taken over," Saunders said. "Southern rocks into New York tough cookies."

He joined the "Chicago" revival company in November 1997, in a pivotal role as the star reporter covering the sensational murder trial of floozie Roxie Hart.

"Chicago" is based on the 1926 play of the same name by Maurine Dallas Watkins, who based it on the real-life trial of a cabaret singer accused of murdering her husband in Chicago. The play inspired the 1942 movie "Roxie Hart," starring Ginger Rogers.

The sexy, jazzy, cynical musical is about, as the narrator says, "murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery — those things we hold near and dear to our hearts."

Written by Kander and Ebb and choreographed by Bob Fosse, "Chicago" premiered on Broadway in 1975 and ran until 1977.

The revival, choreographed by Fosse protégé Ann Reinking in the original's style, won six Tonys, six Drama Desk awards, five Outer Critics Circle awards and an award from the New York Drama Critics Circle.

Broadway names like Bebe Neuwirth (a Tony-winning musical star as Roxie on Broadway, also known for TV's "Cheers" and "Frasier," as Frasier Crane's estranged wife Lilith) aren't with the touring company, although

Reinking did step in for an ailing Sandy Duncan recently.

"It was a childhood dream come true to be on the same stage (with Reinking), but at the same time, we were thinking 'Oh my gosh: This is the boss,'" Saunders laughed.

"She gave us some new things to think about. She actually is quite down to earth, quite a lovely person."

Although the touring company may not have household names, the talent level is equally high, he said.

"The current Roxie Hart, Belle Calaway, is nothing less than stellar," said Saunders.

The touring show also includes Adrian Zmed (on Broadway in "Grease," "Falsettos" and more; movies such as "Grease 2," "Bachelor Party," and on TV in "T.J. Hooker") as flamboyant lawyer Billy Flynn; Deirdre Goodwin as moll Velma Kelly; Carol Woods as "Mama" Morton; and Bruce Winant as Amos Hart.

"Theater crowds have their picks and whatnot, but I hope the (Birmingham) audience will trust that the leads they're going to see are just as big," Saunders said. "The only thing that separates them is the star name."

The "Chicago" company has been on the road almost two years, just returning from Japan in March. Now it's touring the South and Midwest, eventually going coast to coast.

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CHURCH

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wanted him to sign.

That experience still stings, he said, and he carries bitter feelings. His experience at Living Waters has helped soften that blow.

"It's where I find a place of service," Steele said. "It's where I find people I can communicate with, people I can talk to. I feel like I have a bond with them there."

Trying to show members of the gay and lesbian community there is such a place of acceptance can be a hard road.

"I think a lot of gay people have internalized homophobia and a lot of them believe they don't deserve God's love," Laurie said, admitting there was a time when she would have looked askance at anyone who said they were gay and Christian.

There is the further problem, Lowe said, of getting the message out, as most gays and lesbians in the area hide their sexual identity.

To reach potential members, she conducts what she calls a bar ministry, going out to Harpo's/Michael's Lounge, an establishment popular with the gay and lesbian community, to tell people there is a church that is open to them.

Odd as it might seem to have a church working hand-in-hand with a bar, Lowe said they support one another because there are so few places where gays and lesbians can meet in an open atmosphere.

"It's the one place the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community has to socialize in this town," she said, "and I can't fault them for that."

Laurie, who has participated in the bar ministry, said church members often receive a positive response.

"I think people are searching for

spiritual fulfillment," she said. "Many people want to talk to us."

The Rev. Jay Neely is the district coordinator for the Gulf Lower Atlantic District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, which includes churches in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

He pointed out gays and lesbians have no lesser need for spiritual fulfillment than their heterosexual counterparts. The success of MCC, particularly in the South, is proof.

"Everyone has had this deep yearning to have this connection with God," he said. "Many have come from a Christian background. Many have believed the lie that God didn't love them. Many have believed the lie that they were non-persons. Many have believed the lie that they could change."

"They come from a place of yearning, of having been denied Christ," he said. "You find this reconnection when you come to an MCC church. It's like you're a convert; you believe all over again."

Neely has seen MCC grow from a movement to a fairly middle-of-the-road denomination in the 30 years he's been involved. He noted that in recent years, MCC has been admitted to several large interdenomination organizations like the North Carolina Council of Churches and the Metropolitan Atlanta Christian Council and has even begun to draw a small but significant number of heterosexual members.

As far as gaining more general acceptance is concerned, he said it's only a matter of time.

Members of Living Waters also hope their church will one day be more accepted.

"I don't know that it ever will be," said Steele. "If we're given a chance, though, we could offer as much as any of the other denominations."

BIBLE

Continued from Page 5C

manual for Israel's priests.

The prohibition on homosexuality, according to MCC, is primarily a means of differentiating Israelite religion from the religion of the surrounding Canaanites, who worshiped multiple fertility gods and practiced female and male cult prostitution.

Further, the word usually translated "abomination" is the Hebrew "to'evah," a word strongly associated with sins of idolatry. Given this association, MCC argues that it is likely the prohibition was primarily a means for the Israelites to separate themselves from their neighbors, not a condemnation of "loving, responsible homosexual relationships."

Daniel Helminiak is an Atlanta-based researcher and author of "What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality." He said MCC is engaging in scriptural interpretation that is really very mainstream.

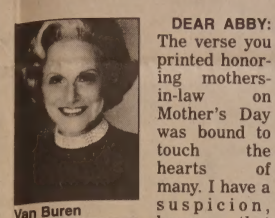
"The way of using the scriptures by grounding them in their original historical context is essential to most mainstream theology," he said.

Helminiak noted that the Bible has been used to support many social arrangements that have fallen out of vogue, slavery, conservative gender roles and the practice of collecting interest on money among them.

The reason passages on homosexuality are highlighted, and other biblical directives are ignored is just as political.

"Certain texts that seem to have a political importance are emphasized," he said. "Other texts that deal with issues of cleanness and uncleanness are forgotten."

Mothers-in-law have much to answer for



Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: The verse you printed honoring mothers-in-law on Mother's Day was bound to touch the hearts of many. I have a suspicion, however, that more than a few women felt the sentiments did not speak for them. In honor of these women, I'd like to provide you with a bit of doggerel I composed in response. Perhaps you'll want to share it with your readers. — MAXINE DERINGER, LAS VEGAS, NEV.

DEAR MAXINE: Your poem is an absolute hoot! I'm sure it will raise more than a few eyebrows. Read on:

TO HIS MOTHER
"Mother-in-law," they say, and yet,
Somehow I simply can't forget
'Twas you who followed him around
To grab whatever hit the ground.
And in your hand, to make it super,
A real gold-plated pooper scooper!

'Twas you who gave him his way when you
Let him demand a separate menu.
Perhaps if he had been a daughter,
You might have taught him to boil water.
His little socks and underwear
You let him throw just anywhere.
'Twas you who taught him how to say,
"What can the world do for me today?"
And so, today, beside me stands
The man that I took off your hands.
You raised him with such cunning knack,
I think I'll let you have him back.

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in the hope that you will print a gentle reminder in your column about displaying "Old Glory," our national flag.

As we approach Flag Day (June 14), I thought it might be a good time to remind people that it may be time to replace their worn or torn flags — after all, the American flag is an important symbol and not just an ornament.

Children as well as adults should realize there are rules and customs associated with displaying the "red, white and blue." — NASHUA, N.H., PATRIOT

DEAR PATRIOT: There are many

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN DEAR ABBY

do's and don'ts related to displaying the American flag, too many to include in one column. One well-known rule is that the flag should fly only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs. It should not be displayed at night, unless it has been properly illuminated. The flag should be lowered in stormy weather, unless an all-weather flag is being used.

When it has become tattered, torn or faded, the accepted method of flag disposal is to burn

it. Those who are uncomfortable or unable to dispose of the flag in this manner should contact their nearest American Legion post. Most posts have an annual ceremony to honorably dispose of old or worn flags.

Readers who want to learn more about the complete flag code should visit the American Legion Web site at www.legion.org/flag-code.htm.

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SHEINWOLD'S BRIDGE

By FRANK STEWART

"I'm queen of the world," the Queen of Diamonds told Alice haughtily, "or at least of Wonderland. None of the kings and aces dare capture me."

"Yes, Your Majesty," said Alice politely.

"You don't believe me?" snorted the Queen. "Just watch."

The Mad Hatter, West, led the jack of spades against Alice's 3NT, and Alice won with the queen and led a diamond. The Hatter played the queen, and Alice reached for dummy's king.

"No, no!" bellowed the Queen of Diamonds, who was kibitzing. "Remember what I said."

TEN TRICKS — So Alice played low from dummy. She won the next spade and led her last diamond to the king and East's ace. Alice could then win the heart return and get to dummy with the ace of spades to run the diamonds. She took four diamonds, three spades, two clubs and a heart.

If South covers the queen of diamonds with the king, East can play low and take the ace if dummy leads the jack next. South can't set up and cash the diamonds; probably goes down two.

DAILY QUESTION — You hold: S K Q 5 H A J 8 5 D 7 6 C A K 8 2. Dealer, at your right, opens one heart. What do you say?

ANSWER — A bid of 1NT would promise a balanced 16 to 18 points with strength in hearts; and if that was your answer, I can't disagree.

CHICAGO

Continued from Page 5C

For Saunders, who'll play the role of the quirky reporter on the Saturday and Sunday matinees, it's a chance to prove to kinfolks that he's really sweating.

"I'm hoping they come out and see what I do, so they see I'm really not just writing, not calling; that I am really am busy traveling and working."

"And of course I hope to bask in the glory of all my relatives, friends and past co-workers," he laughed.

As a side note, he hopes his success could prove inspirational for similarly stage-struck Alabamians.

"It is possible to persevere, but you have to have a passion that burns brighter than anything else."

"Obviously I get tired of going into a hotel room, Mom calls and asks, 'Where are you?', and I have to look at the phone to find out. I miss my family terribly."

"But this is what we do, as actors. We get to do a job many people only dream of doing, so we don't think of it as work — even though it is."

Tickets for "Chicago," which will play for eight performances at the BJCC, range from \$19.50 to \$52.50 and are available at Ticketlink locations, or charge them by phone at (800) 277-1700. Discounts for groups of 20 or more are available by calling (205) 328-8222.

Trend-setters say religion is important

NEW YORK — A consumer marketing survey showed that 54 percent of Americans said "religion plays an important part in my life," while 59 percent held that view among an elite category of "trend-setters."

The survey of 5,916 Americans, 10 percent of them classed as "trend-setters," was conducted by the Brand Futures Group of Young and Rubicam.

"Quite simply, God is back," said Ira Matathia, the group's CEO.

The report noted that faith is cropping up in everything from tattoos to teen apparel to the popular "What Would Jesus Do?" merchandise.

Far more Americans rated religion as important than did other national populations surveyed: The Netherlands, 25 percent; United Kingdom, 19 percent; France and Germany, 14 percent.

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ELECTION (R) (1:30-4:00 7:30-10:00)

FOLISH (R) (1:10-4:10 7:10-10:10)

TRIPPI (R) (1:10-4:10 7:10-10:10)

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) (1:20-4:20 7:20-10:20)

10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG-13) (1:20-4:20 7:20-10:20)

NEVER BEEN KISSED (PG-13) (1:10-4:10 7:10-10:10)

TREKKIES (PG) (1:20-4:20 7:20-10:20)

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One coupon per customer. Not good with any other coupon or discount offer at participating Captain D's.
EXPIRES 6/30/99

3-PIECE FISH DINNER \$3.29

Three batter-dipped fish filets, fries, cole slaw and hushpuppies.
One coupon per customer. Not good with any other coupon or discount offer at participating Captain D's.
EXPIRES 6/30/99

Schedule of Children's Activities

The Children's Room #1419 will be opened 15 minutes before scheduled activities. We request that you pick your child up for lunch, dinner and after Evening Services no later than 15 minutes after the end of the activities.

Friday Afternoon and Evening, May 21

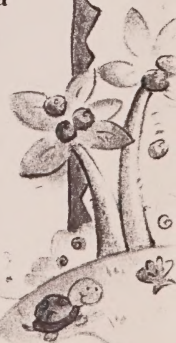
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|-------------------|--|
| 12:45 - 1:00 p.m. | Drop off in Room 1419 |
| 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Arts and Crafts, Storytelling, and Sing-a-long. |
| 6:00 - 6:15 p.m. | Pick up |
| | |
| 7:45 - 8:00 p.m. | Drop off in Room 1419 |
| 8:00 - 9:45 p.m. | "The Flood, the Ark and the Rainbow" storytime with crafts |
| 9:45 - 10:00 p.m. | Pick up |

Saturday, May 22

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 9:15 - 9:30 a.m. | Drop off in Room 1419 |
| 9:30 - Noon | "Noah's Wife", keeping promises, being a FROG, and skit making for Children's Moment. |
| 12:00 - 12:15 p.m. | Pick up |
| | |
| 1:45 - 2:00 p.m. | Drop off in Room 1419 |
| 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Trip to the Birmingham Zoo. \$2 for children under 12, \$5 for 12 and older. Train ride \$1 for each person. Scholarships available. Please include spending money for snacks and gift shop. |
| 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Arts and crafts |
| 6:00 - 6:15 p.m. | Pick up in Room 1419 |
| | |
| 7:45 - 8:00 p.m. | Drop off in Room 1419 |
| 8:00 - 9:45 p.m. | Claiming God's promises, practice skit and prepare costumes |
| 9:45 - 10:00 p.m. | Pick up |

Sunday, May 23 --- Meet in the Conference area

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. | "Why are we quiet during service?", practice skit. |
| 10:00 a.m. | Children will try to sit together throughout the service and give the Children's Moment. |



RELEASE

I _____ hereby give my permission
to have my child/children _____
ride with members of Covenant MCC and
other designees to activities designed for
the children attending the conference
"RAINBOWS OF FAITH."

I HEREBY RELEASE THE ABOVE FROM
LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS OR INJURY

PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

WITNESS

DATE



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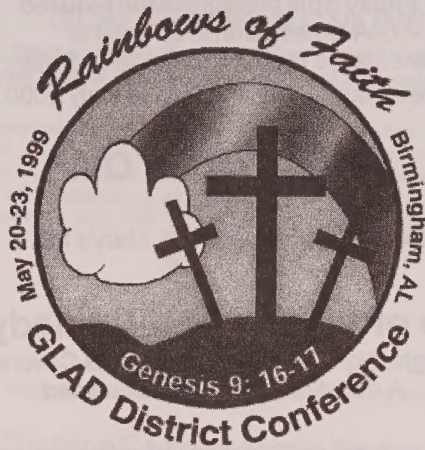
I HEREBY RELEASE THE ABOVE FROM
LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS OR INJURY

PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE S

WITNESS

DATE



Greetings!

May 21st is just around the corner!

We are looking forward to you all joining us for

District Conference in "The Magic City", Birmingham, Alabama.

You can look forward to great preaching,
inspiring music and informative workshops!

Worship Service Speakers

Friday Worship: Rev. Pat Bumgardner - Pastor, MCC New York

Saturday Worship: Rev. Delores Berry - UFMCC Evangelist

Sunday Worship: Rev. Jeff Pullium - Pastor, MCC Augusta

and

a special children's worship presentation.

Workshops

"What the Bible Really says about Homosexuality" -

Dr. Daniel Helminiak

"Music & Drama - Praise and Worship" - Dr. Darrell Mitchell & Mr. Erin Wertenberger

"Spirituality and Sex: The Ethical Implications" - Dr. Daniel Helminiak

"The Mission That Has a Church" - Rev. Greg Bullard

"Ministry Evaluation: Renewing Your Ministry" - Rev. Helene Loper

"Send In The Clowns" Facing reality in Life - Johanna Daweese

"A Conversation About Financing Denominational Development"

Ms. Sharon Lindenbaum with Mr. Don Wolford & Rev. Glenna Shepherd.

Conference Dinner

Friday night preregistration required
A Celebration and Roast of
Rev. Marge Ragona, Covenant's Pastor.
Rev. Marge will be retiring in early 2000.

Liturgy of the Quilt

Friday night -
Rev. Christine Oscar, St. Mary's MCC

A Performance of the Musical Comedy "Nunsense".

Following Saturday Night Worship - Presented by the Covenant Footlight Players.
A donation of \$5.00 is requested.

When you are not participating in conference activities,
visit the Civil Rights Institute - see the struggle of our
kindred as they battled racism, enjoy the adventure of the
McWane center - a science exhibit and an IMAX Theatre,
stroll through Birmingham's beautiful Botanical Gardens and enjoy the Bonsai exhibit in the adjacent
Japanese Gardens, or shop at the Galleria, one of the south's largest Malls!

Rainbows of Faith

The Gulf Lower Atlantic District
and

Covenant Metropolitan Community Church
Welcomes YOU!

GLAD TIDINGS ONLINE

*News of the Gulf Lower Atlantic District of the
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches*

GLAD Tidings Online is an opportunity for you to tell GLAD what's going on at your church or share information that is important for us to know. We then share the information that we've received by "presstime" with you. The church that has submitted the information is indicated at the beginning of the announcement. If you have any question, or are interested in the events posted, please contact the church who has submitted the announcement.

May 3, 1999

News Around the District

New Web Home for GLAD District (www.gladmcc.com)

District Coordinator's Itinerary

May 8-9 Disciples of the Trinity
May 19-23 District Conference & Committee
Jun 18-20 MCC Nashville
Jun30-Jul 7 Vacation
July 8-18 General Conference & Council

AROUND GLAD.....

Rev. Mick Hinson, Pastor, **MCC Charlotte**, reports that the congregation will move into its new sanctuary on Eastway Drive, August 29 - three months earlier than originally planned. This beautiful property, at 1825 Eastway Drive, is being purchased by MCC Charlotte, and will provide extensive ministry and education space and sanctuary.

All of the GLAD Churches reported Joyous and worshipful Easter services. Some experienced exceptional attendance: 109 **MCC Nashville's** two Easter Services, **MCC Greenville** reports 178, First MCC Atlanta over 400, **MCC Columbia** 84 at one service. And, many others reporting great attendance.

SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Remember to get your reservations for the hotel and registration for conference in the mail. There is a registration form in this newsletter. One correction: Earlier mailings showed the hotel address as 8085 S. 20th Street, that is incorrect, the correct address is: 808 S. 20th Street. Registration information will include a map to the hotel. Friday nights dinner will be a roast and celebration in honor of Reverend Marge (Reverend Mother) Ragona. Marge will be retiring from the active ministry and the Covenant pulpit in early 2000. Members of the **Covenant MCC** congregation will be presenting a special performance of **"NUNSENSE"**, a riotous Musical-comedy following worship on Saturday night (May 22). Some of the lyrics and situations are adult oriented, so parents please take note.

Atlanta's First MCC was recently voted the "best Gay and lesbian congregation" by a readers poll of Southern Voice. First MCC is the oldest church in the GLAD District. **MCC Chattanooga** and Interim Pastoral Leader Keith Mozingo are looking forward to a congregational choir forming under the directorship of Dianne Bracken. The church recently completed a "Vision" forum to be followed by a "Mission" forum this month.

EXCEL of the Zebra (GLAD) met April 16-18 at Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Alabama. Christ Covenant MCC was recently selected by rev. Elder Nancy Wilson to be a part of a UFMCC educational program that will extend into the community. The program is funded wholly by a grant given to UFMCC. Reverend Renee DuBose will be the Interim Pastoral leader for a Parish Extension in Athens, GA. This work is expected to be up and worshipping by summer. **"OUR HOPE MCC - Athens"** will be an extension of Christ Covenant MCC - Atlanta.

St. Jude's MCC -Wilmington continues its remarkable growth. Now over 100 members, according to Pastor, Rev. Amanda McCullough.

All Saints MCC - Atlanta, and new Pastor, Rev'd. Ike Parker, have a new idea about raising building fund money. They are requesting that members pledge 20% of their Income Tax refunds for the "push" for the Building/Capital fund.

WORDS TO REMEMBER: TRUST -

Thankfulness Reconciliation Unity Service Teamwork
From The MCC Hickory Newsletter.

MCC of the Trinity - Johnson City marked its 18th anniversary April 10 with a special banquet and entertainment. The anniversary worship service on April 11. District Coordinator, included Rev. Jay Neely, who was the special guest at these events. Rev. Bob Galloway, Interim Pastor, at the church has concluded his tour there. Bob will be doing an interim service in England, before he and his partner Rick Sawyer vacation in Scotland.

Beverly Mitzell, Technology Guru for the denomination, and a member of MCC Charlotte brought to our attention a new book. It is "Get me To The Church - On Line -Internet Resources for the Ecumenical Church" by Ralph Milton. Beverly Mitzell reports that the editors of this book sorted through some 70,000 Christian websites, and selected and reviewed 120 of the "best" for the mainline ecumenical church. She tells us, The UFMCC website is one of those reviewed, as is the MCC Kids Page. As a matter of fact, the Kids page is reviewed as part of UFMCC's page as well (giving it two pages instead of one). Quote a small portion of the review: "a lively site that tries to provide a comfortable environment for children of gay, lesbian and transgendered families. Some excellent activities and positive interactions. Any child could enjoy this site, but parents should explain in an affirming manner why these kids sometimes feel insecure."

Beverly Mitzell was rightfully pleased at the notion that "our" little site has gotten such publicity.

The District website has a new location. Thanks to **Sparkle Clark, another web guru**, we have moved to [HTTP://WWW.GLADMCC.COM](http://www.GLADMCC.COM) Easier to find now, no distracting commercials. And much more accessible!

And thanks to Barry Bishop, **All Saints MCC** for the advertisement layout for the GLAD page in the Fellowship Jubilee Program. There will be Jubilee registration forms available at District Conference. Or you can contact Fellowship Headquarters, or the District office for a registration form and brochure.

MCC WINSTON-SALEM locked in a contest over access to their parking lot with a neighbor. Seems to have the matter resolved - almost. A neighbor closed off the road access to the parking lot, claiming the property was neither the city's nor the church's. Reality, it belonged to the congregation which sold Winston-Salem MCC the property. They have now deeded the access property to MCC Winston, the rightful owners. Stay tuned.

How many of you remember the great video presentation developed by **Christ Covenant MCC** for the District Conference in Atlanta? The tape will be mass duplicated by **Disciples of the Trinity MCC, Savannah** (by permission) and made available for purchase. Look for details in upcoming communications.

Emmaus MCC - Fayetteville, NC has taken in its 56th member, with the addition of eleven new congregates. Emmaus is just 7 months old.

OPEN PULPITS: MCC New Life, Charlotte, MCC Huntsville, MCC of the Trinity, Johnson City, St. Francis MCC, Valdosta, GA. MCC Charleston.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY

Late in 1998, the Ministry of Diversity in Spiritual Community (MDISC) ceased to exist as a UFMCC and district network. At the November GLAD District Committee Meeting, the committee passed a motion in support of a proactive approach to the celebration of, and growth in, diversity in our churches. The motion called for a committee of up to 3 people to be appointed in 1999 to communicate within GLAD on diversity initiatives as well as within UFMCC as the need arises. In addition to the call for volunteers within the committee minutes, a couple of letters were distributed with this information.

So far, no names have been submitted. Ideally, we would like the committee of three to come from diverse backgrounds including one from Euro-descent, one from African-American heritage, and one from another People of Color group. Volunteers can be both laity or clergy. In addition to addressing cultural and racial diversity, this committee can choose to examine other areas of diversity such as gender, age, economic, etc. Interested people can submit their names to District Lay Representative Stan Kimer at (919)-787-3091 or via email at sckimer@us.ibm.com

Six members of Emmaus MCC in Fayetteville, NC participated in Equality Begins At Home Lobby Day at the State Legislative Building in Raleigh on March 23rd

Members met individually with Senator Larry Shaw as well as Representative Donald Bonner. Emmaus representatives urged both government leaders to support an amendment to the existing Hate Crimes law to include sexual orientation, to co-sponsor the reform of the NC Crime Against Nature Law and to support a bill which would increase AIDS funding. The Emmaus folks were well received and were able to get a verbal commitment from Senator Shaw to support the above bills.

On Wednesday, March 24, a group of Emmaus members and friends drove to Raleigh and participated in a very moving candlelight memorial vigil for all victims of hate crimes.

Disciples of the Trinity MCC announces the sale of the video "Joy in the Name," produced by Christ Covenant MCC, and shown at an earlier District Conference. You may order your copy through the mail, reserve a copy to pick up at District Conference, or purchase one there. The cost is \$12. For copies mailed, please add \$3. Sales will benefit Christ Covenant and Disciples of the Trinity MCC. We know every church will want one for their video library and many friends and members

will want to have one for their home. What a wonderful way to share our faith. A table will be set up at conference for sales and copies will be sold between meetings and before worship. Please make this information available through your announcements, bulletins, newsletters, etc. You may send your check to (or pay at conference):

Disciples of the Trinity MCC, P.O. Box 74, Savannah, GA 31402.

For more information, e-mail MCCSAVGA@AOL.com

Disciples of the Trinity MCC recently commemorated Easter Week on Passion Sunday with "This Jesus Must Die," a multimedia worship service with the story told in Scripture, contemporary readings, music, video clips from "Jesus Christ Superstar" and the video titled "Man of Sorrows." Our church held its first annual night Easter Egg Hunt. The church gathered, flashlights in hand, to ravage the grounds of a home in South Carolina. After enjoying a wonderful dinner, a bunny piñata entertained the hunters before heading for the big hunt. Almost two hundred plastic eggs were hidden and prizes were given for the most found and each egg had a raffle ticket in it for prizes later.

The church continues to be challenged by an unusually large number of illnesses, hospitalizations, and surgeries. We ask for your prayers about this.

First MCC, Atlanta

Deacon Ray Barreas and Deacon Trudie Barreras of First MCC of Atlanta (GA) recently celebrated their 40th anniversary together. **Rev. Mike Nicolaus**, pastor of FMCC, officiated.

Disciples on Line

ONLINE Prayer Line Monday nights, 9-10 p.m. AOL- open member room, under "Life", called "MCCPRAYER."

UFMCC Chat Room, Tuesdays, 9-11 p.m. Chat room, AOL, Civic Center, UFMCC Chat Line

News Around the Fellowship

From our Moderator:

We're under attack by the courts. And I'm furious! After you read this, I suspect you will be too!

District Judge Keith Nelson of the 78th Judicial District of the Texas court system has released an official ruling that this lesbian mother may not take her child to a Metropolitan Community Church.

"The primary issue is where the child would attend Sunday school and church...the intent was for mainline churches to be utilized in the religious training of the daughter. This would include the Catholic Church, and churches in the Protestant faith such as Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Christian, Episcopalian, which are considered to be the standard religious institutions in the Protestant field. The Metropolitan Community Church does not fall within this category."

For the first time in the 30-year history of UFMCC, a judge has overstepped boundaries provided by the US Constitution and has ruled that UFMCC is not a suitable church for our children. This is appalling. And patently illegal. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution specifically requires government to stay out of religion. But because we're gay or lesbian, this judge feels he can decide by official government decree which churches are "acceptable" and which are not. ***And he's ruled that a predominantly gay congregation is not "acceptable" for this GLBT family.***

What in God's name will it take to get the government out of our lives -- or from attempting to control our GLBT families? ***We must not let a sexist, homophobic Texas judge decide what churches or synagogues gay and lesbian parents and their children may attend!***

I have made a commitment -- along with the good folks at the National Center for Lesbian Rights -- to help this lesbian mother fight the legal battle for her and her daughter's rights. We have hired best possible lawyers, and have filed a legal appeal this past Friday. Quite frankly, I need your help to fight this battle. I realize this will be an expensive legal battle. But the threat to the GLBT community -- and to GLBT people of faith -- is too great to ignore.

That's why I'm asking you to send a financial donation to fight this governmental intrusion into our GLBT community. ***This court decision must not stand!***

There are three things you can do:

1. Copy this message and send it to your friends. Let them know about this threat to our community – and about our commitment to fight this battle.
2. If you believe in prayer, I ask that you remember this courageous mother and her beautiful young daughter in your prayers. Surround her with our love and God's presence.
3. I'm asking you to write a check – a generous check – to fight this legal battle. You may make it payable to UFMCC. 100% of your gift will be used to fight for this lesbian mother's rights and against this injustice.

Donations may be mailed to UFMCC Legal Defense Fund, 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

By the way, you can also make your donation on the Internet through the UFMCC website. Simply go to <http://www.ufmcc.com> and you'll find step-by-step instructions for making your donation by credit card. And, of course, your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of the (US) Internal Revenue Service.

But I urgently need your help and support to fight this battle.

We have an excellent opportunity to stop government intrusion into our GLBT families, but I need your help to carry out this legal battle.

Won't you help me achieve justice for this lesbian mother and her daughter?

May I look for your response this week?

Yours,

The Rev. Troy D. Perry

Moderator of UFMCC

Hate Crimes Against Trans Community Go Unnoticed

Thanks to the **Rev. Vicky Kolakowski**, Pastor of **MCC of the New Vision** (Walnut Creek, CA) for the following information: (This information is being distributed to several e-mail lists, because I believe that this information is important to our ministry as a Fellowship.)

For purposes of this message, transgendered refers to transsexuals, transvestites, cross-dressers and anyone else who publicly appears as a member of a sex different from what society generally considers appropriate for that person.

Recently news reports went out about yet another murdered transgendered person, this time in Georgia. That raises the number of "reported" murders of trans-folk in the United States to 10 since August 4, 1998 (eight months):

Luana (Junior Da Silva Lago) - Died 8/4/98
Fitzroy "Jamaica" Green - Died 8/22/98
Monique Thomas - Died 9/11/98
Chanel Chandler - Died 9/20/98
Rita Hester - Died 11/28/98
Laurny Paige (Donald Scott Fuller) - Died 1/9/99
Steve Dwayne Garcia - Died 2/6/99
(Name Unreleased) - Died 2/25/99
Leslie Re'Geanne - Died 3/24/99
Tracey Thompson - Died 3/30/99

Some transgender groups estimate that a transgendered person in the U.S. is seven times more likely to be murdered than a non-transgendered person. Murders of transgendered people tend to be more violent, and often involve mutilating the body or shooting or cutting the person in the face or genitals.

This sounds like a serious problem that affects the people we in the UFMCC serve. I believe that we need to publicly respond to this crisis.

First, many of us in the UFMCC transgender community have formed a networking group TransMCC (<http://www.transmcc.org>), and are working on becoming a supportive voice in the UFMCC for transgender issues. I recommend that we all support this group, and that every UFMCC church's website link to this site, as well as the Fellowship's

site, to publicly demonstrate our support for transgender folk.

Second, in the past I've recommended Gwen Smith's excellent website "Remembering Our Dead" - <http://www.gender.org/remember>, which has information on 108 murdered transgendered people. I would encourage us to find a way to link our web pages to this site, and perhaps to TG related sites like Gender.org (<http://www.gender.org>) and GenderPAC (<http://www.gpac.org>) (You might also want to check out the transgender section of my web page listed below.)

Third, I think that we in the UFMCC need to be a bold voice of education, to let the world know that transphobia and transhatred are terrible spiritual maladies which exist and are encouraged by many in the Christian churches, just as homophobia and homohatred have been encouraged by those same misguided elements of the Christian community. Overall, we have been very vocal about homophobia and relatively silent about transphobia (and biphobia, too).

Part of that education would involve self-education. Many MCC churches have done outstanding jobs of educating their own spiritual communities about transgender issues, for example, my former church, MCC San Jose, has done numerous panels and workshops on transgender issues going back long before I arrived and which I am sure will continue. The well-attended workshop that at the MCC retreat in Boardman, Oregon last year was another good step in that direction.

Another part of that education is recognizing that transphobia is connected to, although not identical with, homophobia. Those who are motivated by hatred do not differentiate between their discomfort with transgressing societal gender-based norms about appearance/identity (transgendered people) and affection/sexuality (gay, lesbian and bisexual people). Straight transsexuals get gay-bashed, and gay men in drag or very butch dykes get tranny-bashed.

Finally, I am also beginning to work on developing other resources and mechanisms for distributing information about transgender people and our spirituality, and may be back in touch later about how to disseminate this information and to support these resources.

Vicky

Update On Gay Equality in Canada

SUMMARY: The Canadian government will present a bill to grant pension benefits to the same gender partners of federal employees, while Alberta struggles on with spousal definitions and New Brunswick's religious right attacks the progress made there.

It's official: the Canadian government will be introducing a bill in the House of Commons to allow all federal employees to name same-gender partners as the beneficiaries of spousal pension benefits.

The new policy would apply to not only those working in government administration, but also to the staff of government corporations, the military, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Although the Canadian government has rejected a move to change at one stroke all 58 federal laws discriminating against same-gender couples, it does seem to be taking some real steps towards granting them equality with common-law heterosexual couples. The House of Commons has now adopted a policy for its own employees which allows non-biological co-parents in same-gender couples to take parental leave, as their married counterparts can.

In New Brunswick, a province which has been a leader in equal treatment for gay and lesbian families, religious conservatives have begun a push to remove sexual orientation from the provincial human rights law. That's despite the Canadian Supreme Court decision a year ago that ordered sexual orientation into Alberta's human rights law as a protected category.

Please continue to remember the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered citizens of Canada with your prayers as they continue the important work of social and spiritual justice for all people.

Internet Discussion Group Formed For UFMCC Clergy

There is now an e-mail based discussion list for UFMCC clergy. If you would like to participate, simply go to <http://www.onelist.com> and subscribe to UFMCCclergy@onelist.com

If you have any difficulty in subscribing please send an e-mail to Rev. Kathy Baker, the list creator and moderator, at kathy@kbaker.com and she will subscribe you directly. Many of those who use Juno and have no web access and some of those who use AOL will need to directly e-mail Rev. Baker to get on the list.

UFMCC District Coordinator Don Pederson Pens New Book

Admittedly, the title of the Rev. Donald Pederson's latest book is out-loud laughable: "Mental Laxatives For a Constipated Mind." But its contents are a collection of mini-essays and anecdotal discourses that will bring a smile to the spirit and a glow to the heart—a perfect prescription for the doldrums of the day.

Pederson, a theologian and human rights activist, has been a minister for twenty-five years and currently serves as a District Coordinator for UFMCC's Southwest District. He is a sought-after speaker, conflict mediator and spiritual advisor. Rev. Pederson believes that humor, touching anecdotes and thought-provoking discourses can be as beneficial as any medical prescription for healing the mind.

The new book is available through the UFMCC Resource Center for \$14.95, plus \$4.50 for shipping. California residents add \$1.24 for state sales tax. Please mention catalog #BP-9964 when ordering.

— Exciting news! **The Rev. Judy Dahl**, Director of UFMCC Global Outreach, is in touch with a group of **gay and lesbian Christians in Iceland** who have expressed interest in affiliating with UFMCC.

— Prayers for the **Rev. June Norris**, who underwent surgery on the left shoulder for a torn rotator cuff on March 17th.

— Note from the **Steve Taylor**, former interim pastor of **MCC Washington (DC)**: Greetings from Moscow, Russia! We do have a small community here and in Saint Petersburg with Alex Shimko. I am working on trying to get the legal rights for UFMCC to be here in Russia. It may not be as hard as we once thought but right now we are lying low until the war with Yugoslavia is over. Please keep us all in your prayers as we do you and the fellowship. Love in Christ, Steve Taylor"

— History was made in Alaska recently! The March 21st service at **Lamb of God MCC** (Anchorage, AK), was the largest attendance ever at a service of an MCC in Alaska, with 127 persons present. The service included a recommitment ceremony celebrating the 30th anniversary of two members, **Al Incontro & Dan Carter**. The following day, an announcement of the ceremony with a photo of Al & Dan appeared in the **Anchorage Daily News** on what had previously been called the "Marriage Page" (now known as the "Together Page"). ***This was the first same-sex marriage/anniversary announcement ever published in an Alaskan newspaper.***

On-Line Fundraising Help Now Available To Your Church!

Our friends at the Gill Foundation have asked us to share the following helpful news with you:

The Gill Foundation's OutGiving Project is live and on-line at a computer near you. Check out our home page at www.gillfoundation.org. We've got lots of fundraising tips and tools that are yours for the taking.

Need a fundraising audit? Do it on line with OutGiving.
<http://www.gillfoundation.org/audits/devaud01.htm>

Looking for a sample fundraising plan? Download one today!
<http://www.gillfoundation.org/outgiv/og01hh01.htm>

Know any major donors to the gay and lesbian movement who might benefit from the OutGiving Conference? Get more information and register on line!
<http://www.gillfoundation.org/outgiv/og02aa.htm>

Looking for a new nursery rhyme? We'll show you how to combine programs and fundraising to make your garden grow.
<http://www.gillfoundation.org/outgiv/mary.htm>

Get money from the Gill Foundation! Check out our guidelines on line. HINT: The next deadline is May 31, 1999.
<http://www.gillfoundation.org/grants/gso1.htm>

And if you come to the web site, leave a trail of breadcrumbs (or at least drop us a line on our message board.) Click on:
<http://www.gillfoundation.org/boards/guestbook.htm>

The **Gill Foundation's OutGiving Project** exists because strategies must be developed and the financial base increased in order for human rights to become a reality for the LGBT community. The Project coaches askers (organizations), so they become better at asking, givers (donors), so they become more effective at giving, while it promotes and helps protect philanthropy as a tool for social activism-all within an atmosphere of fun.

We hope that you will play with us often!

Sincerely,

Julie R. Enszer

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Everyone has a right to give. . . Building Philanthropy for a strong lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movement.

SEE YOU AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE
(May 21-23 - Radisson Hotel Birmingham)
Remember to register and make your room reservations

GLAD Tidings Online is the biweekly online newsletter of the
Gulf Lower Atlantic District of the
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
Rev. Jay Neely, District Coordinator

LiaisonGLAD@aol.com

Note from the Editor: My apologies for the delay in this issue of Glad Tidings Online. The issue is floating around in cyberspace somewhere and it took a little time to recompile the lost information, as well as adding all of the new information that comes in daily. The hard copy of GLAD TIDINGS was delayed, and we are sending this hard copy of Tidings Online" to bring you up to date.

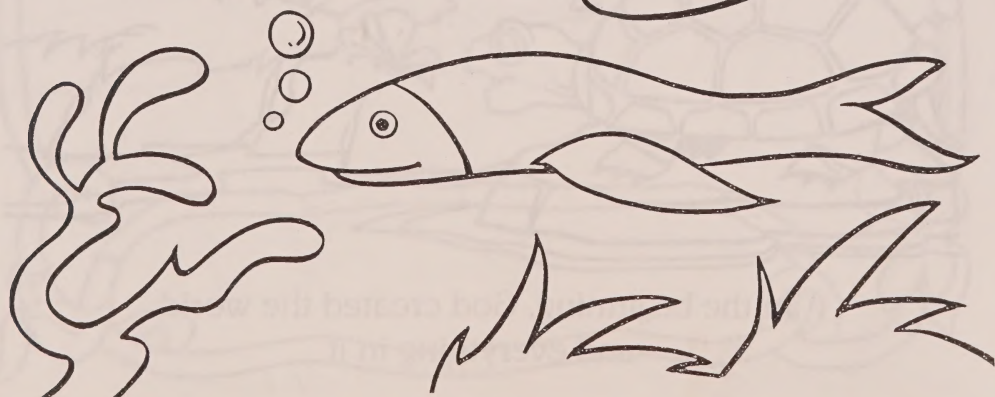
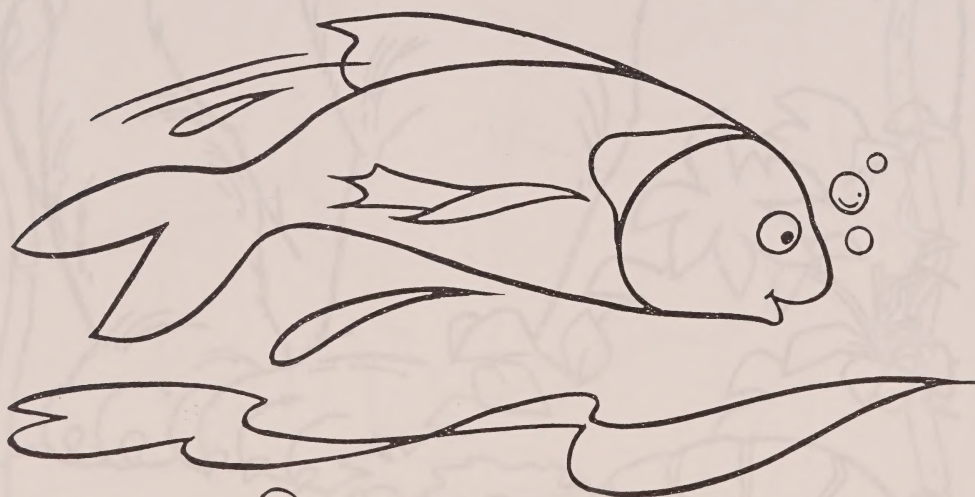
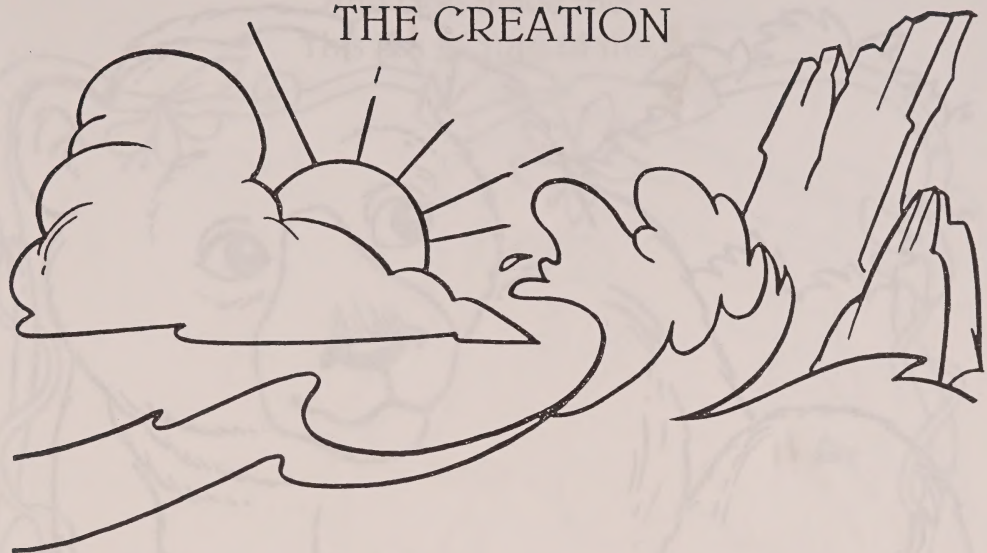
District Conf
May - 1999 - B'ham

Noah & Me

Children's Activity & Coloring Book



THE CREATION





In the beginning, God created the world
and everything in it.

And God made me!
This is a picture of me.



Noah





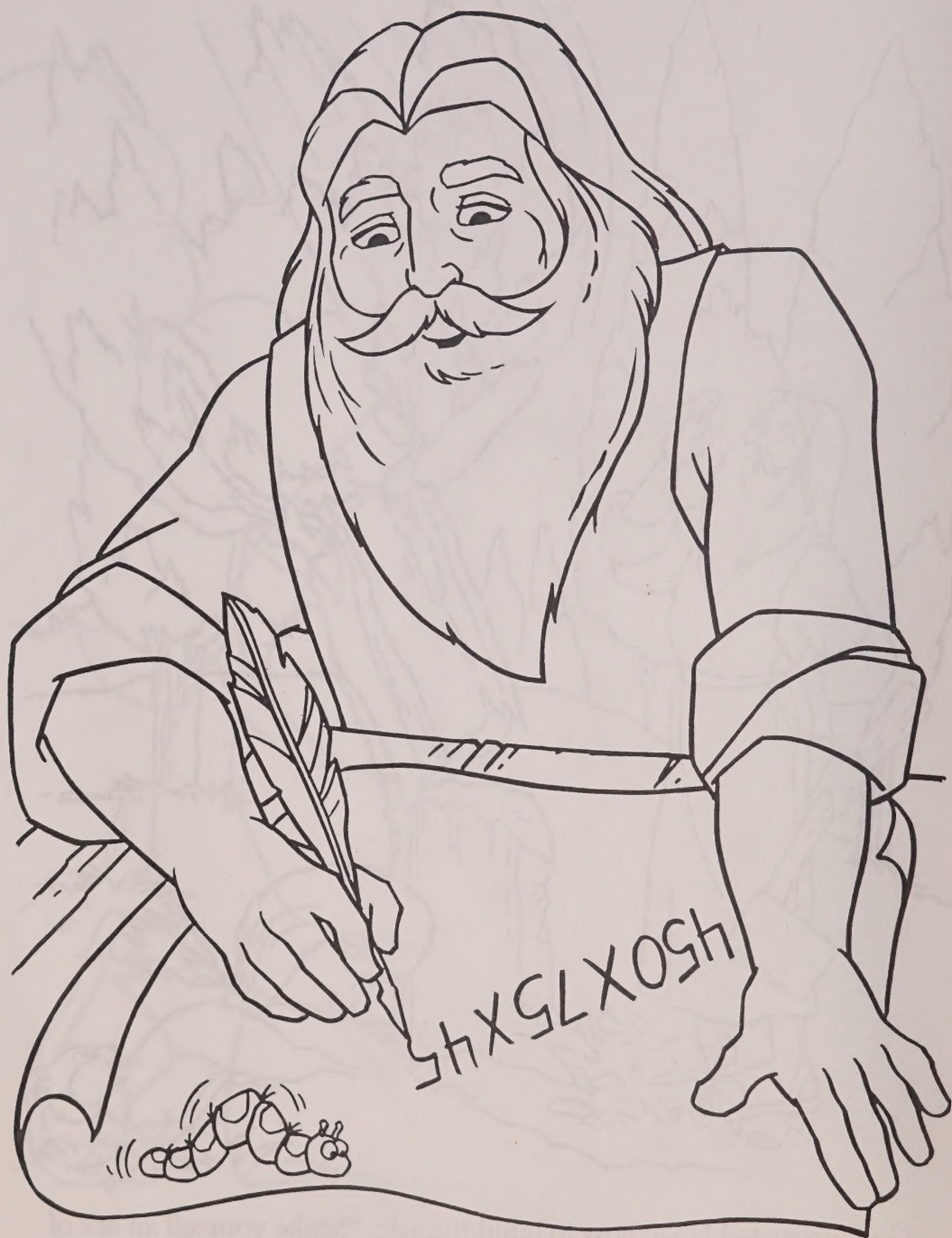
Noah was a just and righteous man. Noah walked with God.



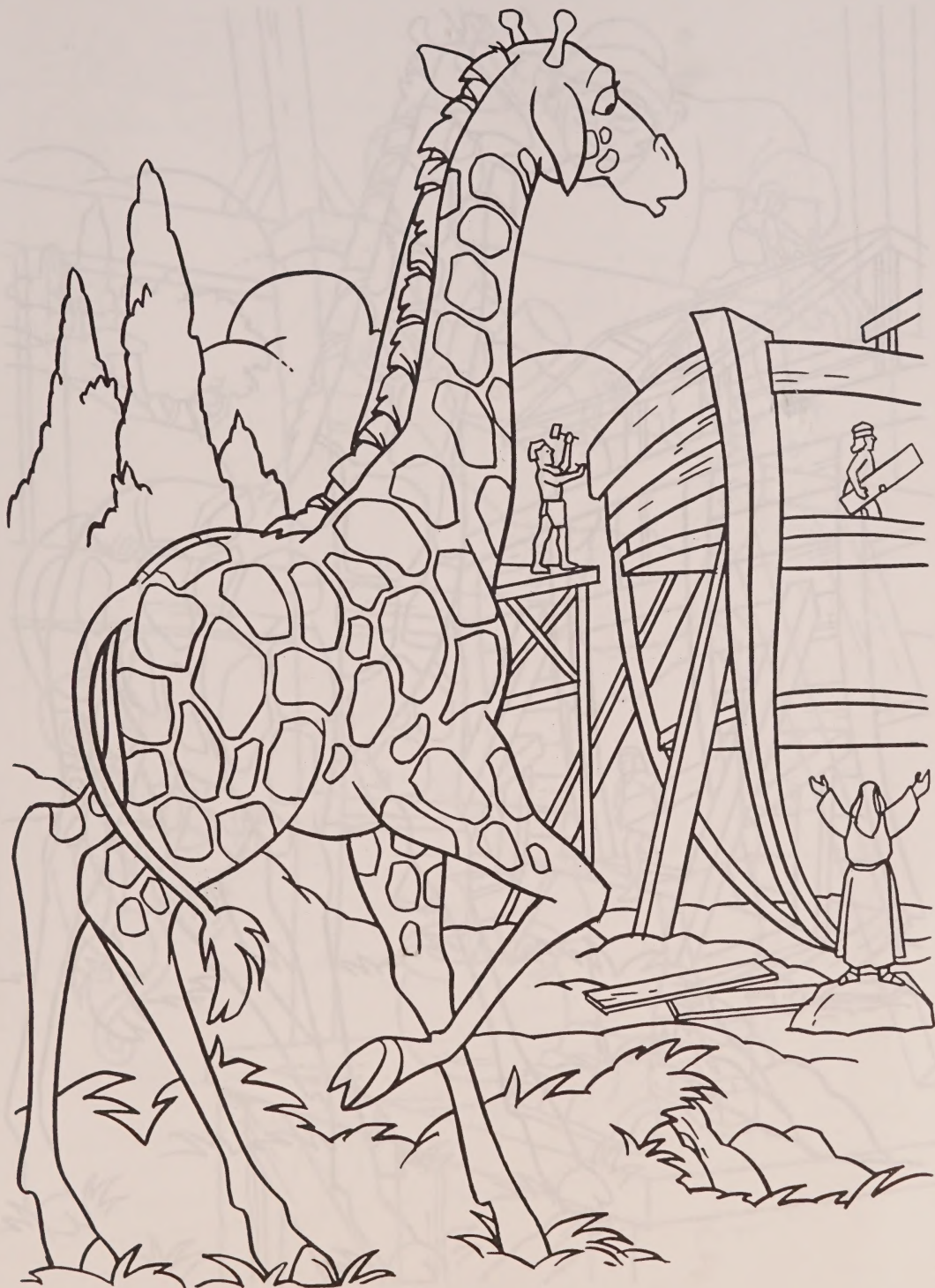
God said to Noah, "I am very angry! People have turned mean and bad!
I am going to bring an end to all living things on earth!"



God instructed Noah how to build the ark: "Make yourself an ark of cypress wood. Divide the inside of the ark into rooms. You will cover it inside and out with pitch.



The length of the ark will be 450 feet,
it will be 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.







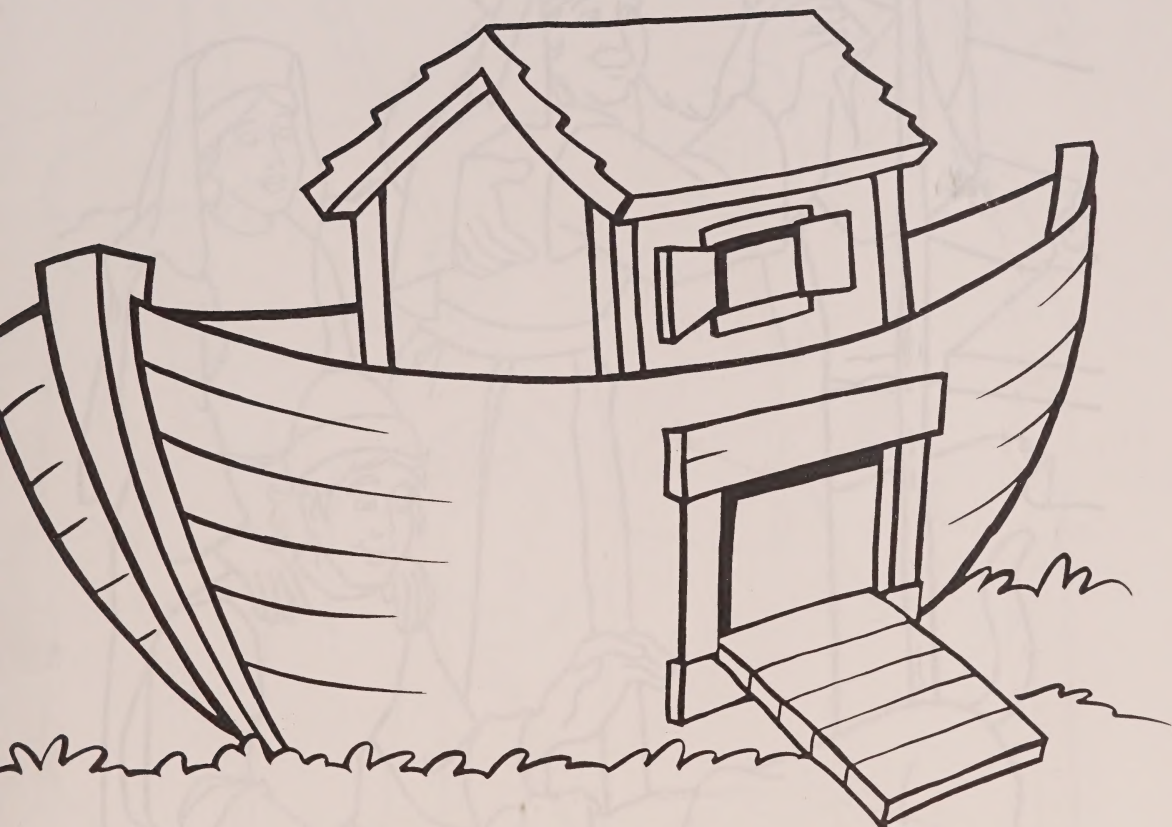




You will make a window for the ark.



Put a door in the side of the ark.



a very big boat

This is my home!



This is my home!

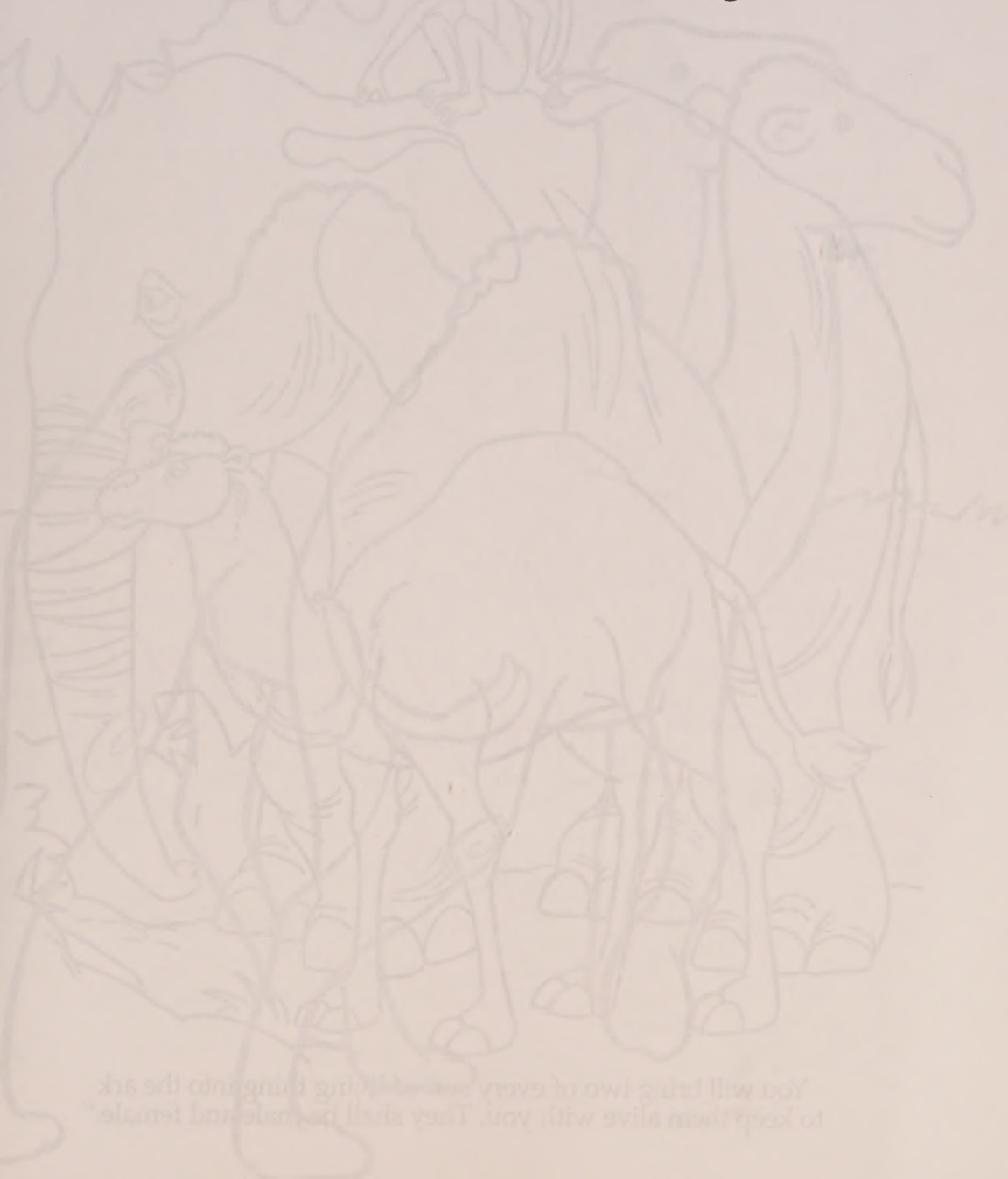


For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy everything under the heavens.

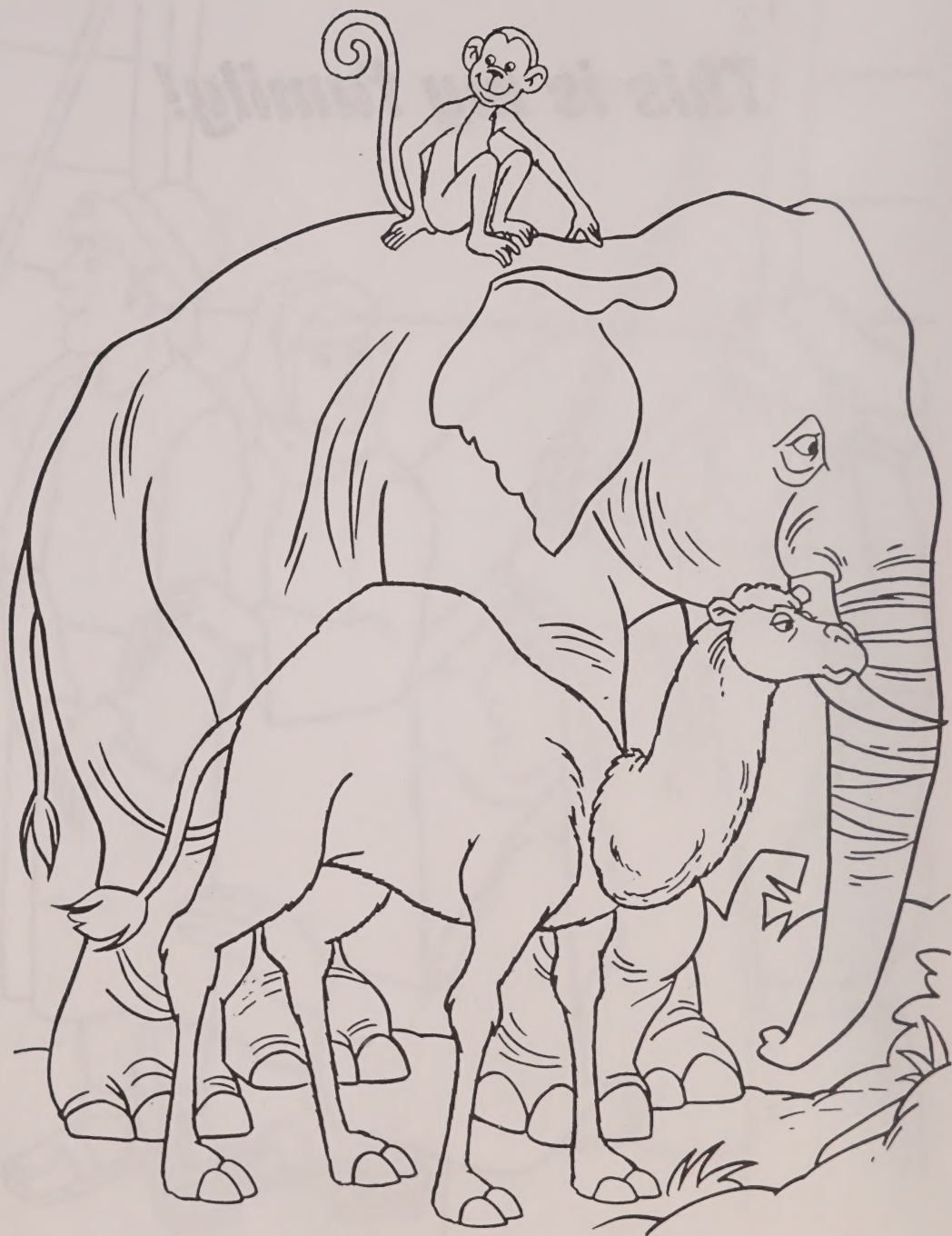


But, I will establish my covenant with you.
You and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives will enter the ark.

This is my family!



You will bring two of every kind of animal into the ark
to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.



You will bring two of every sort of living thing into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female."

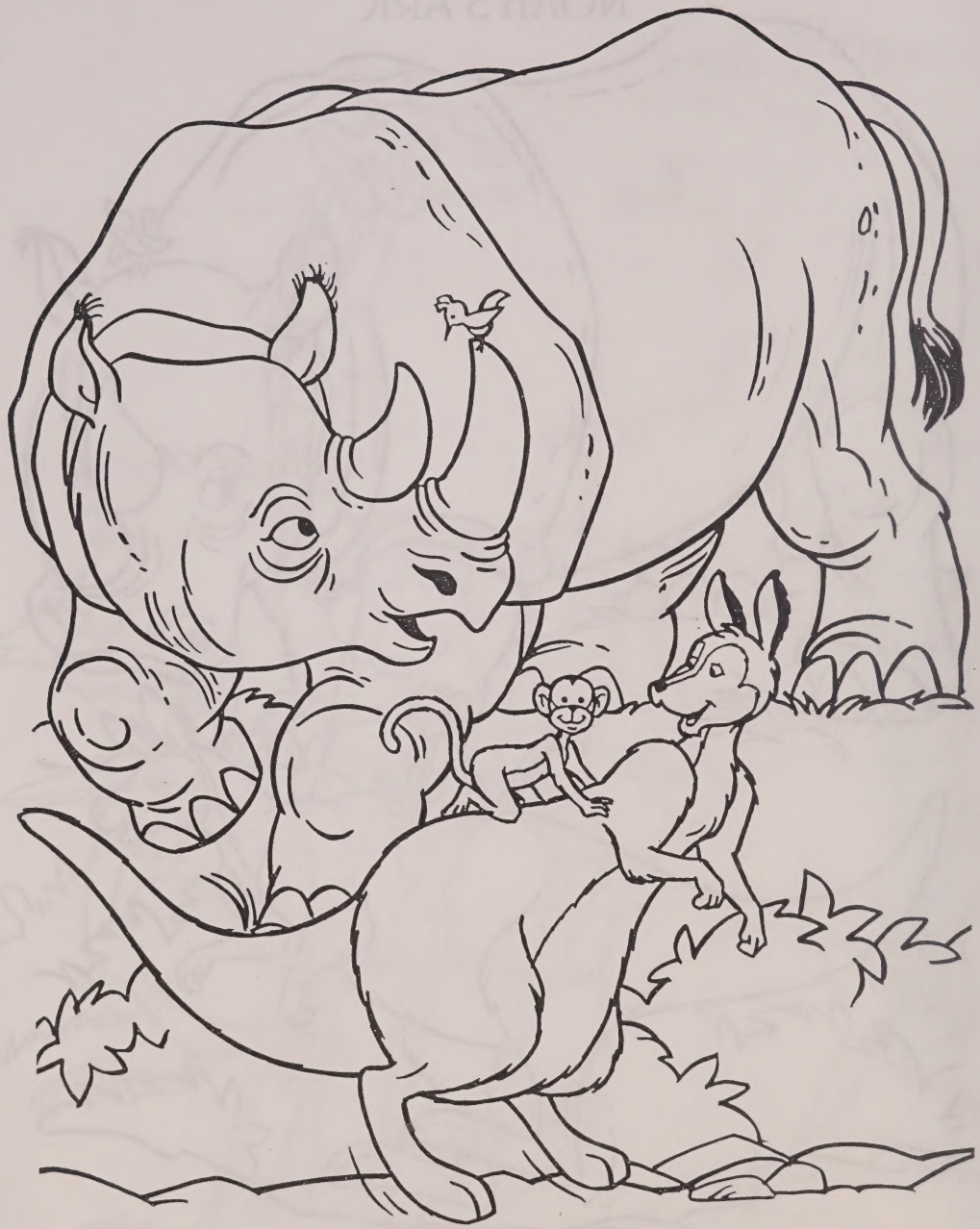
two by two



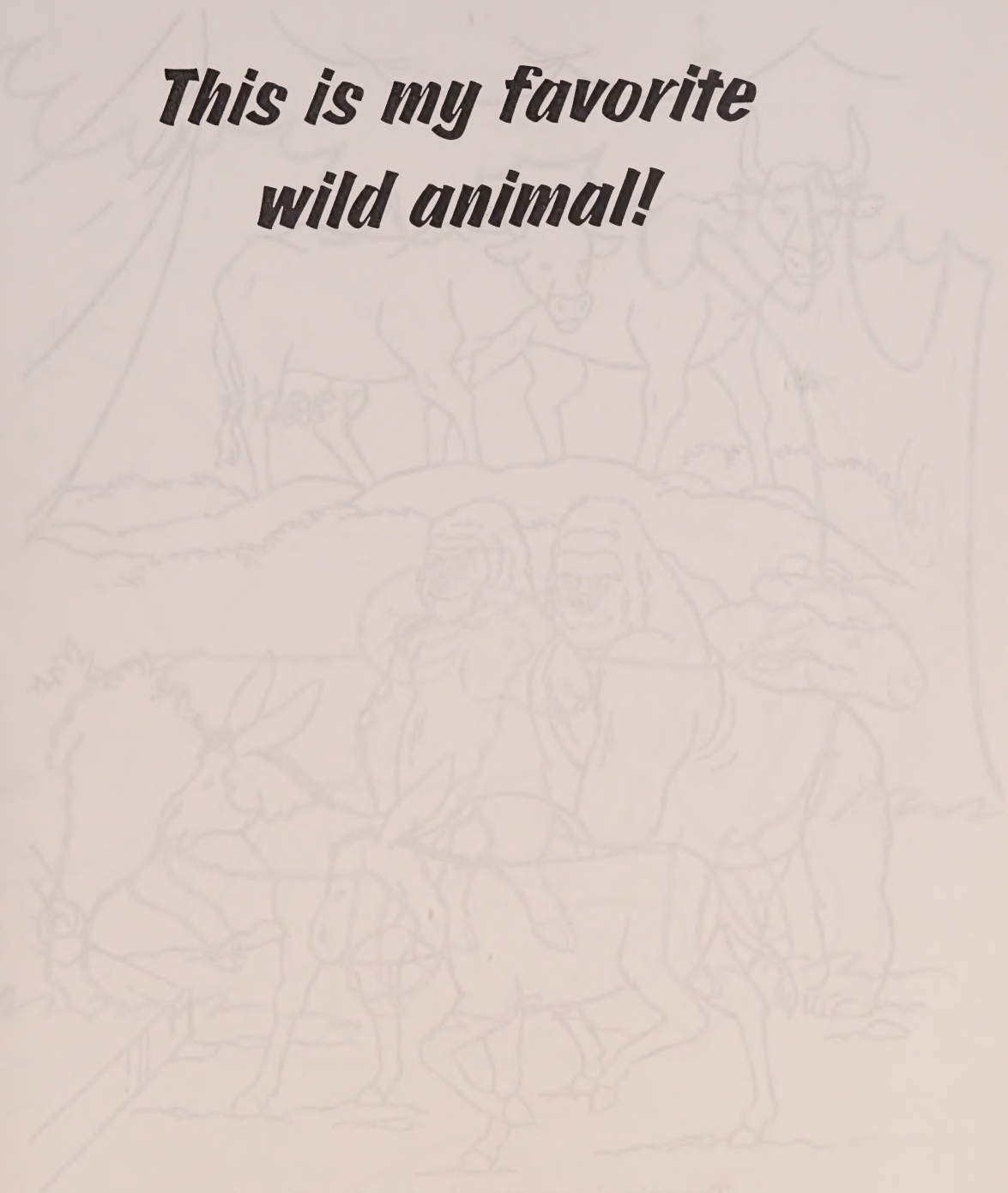


NOAH'S ARK





***This is my favorite
wild animal!***

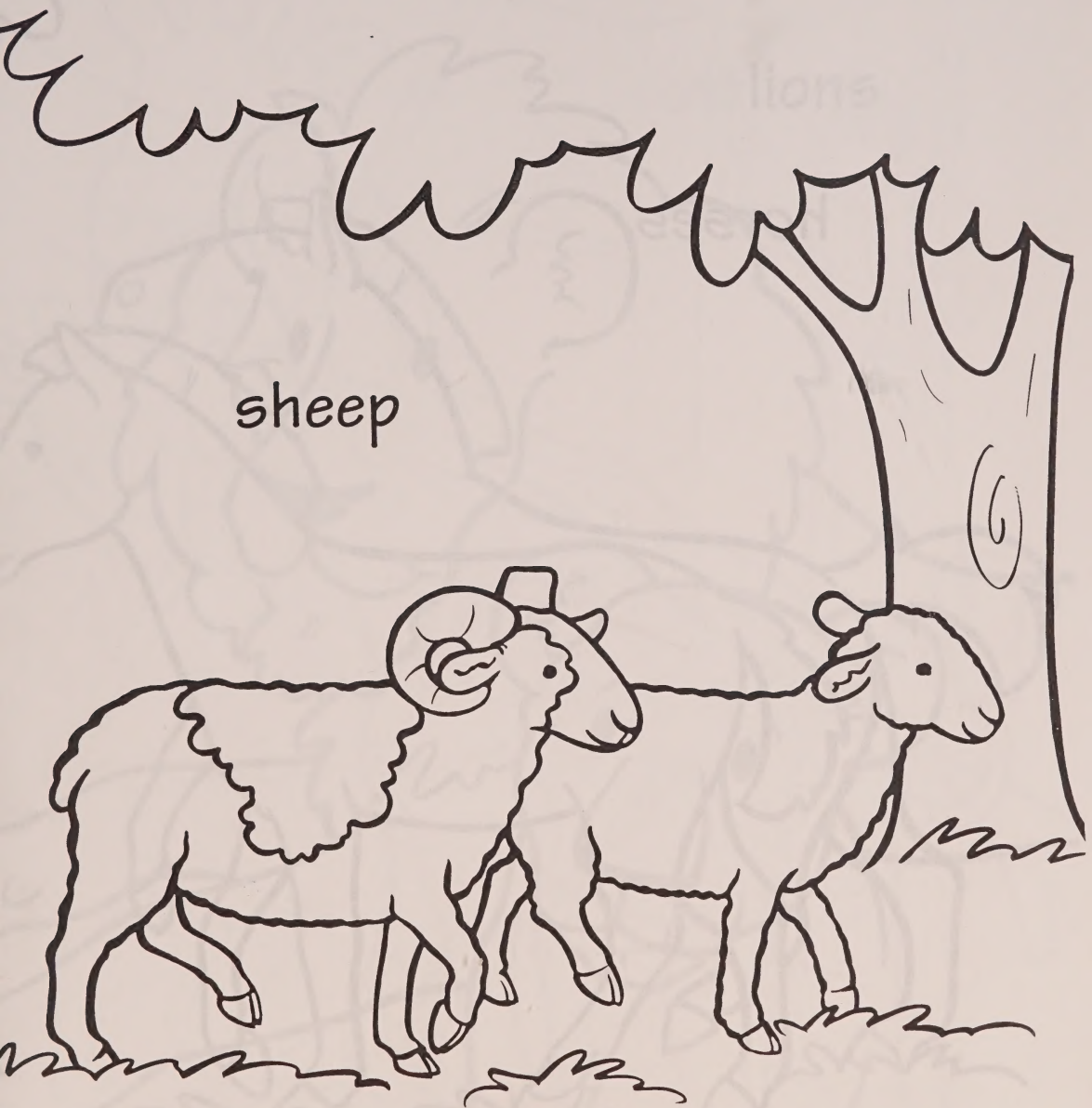


The animals went two-by-two into the ark,
just as God had commanded.

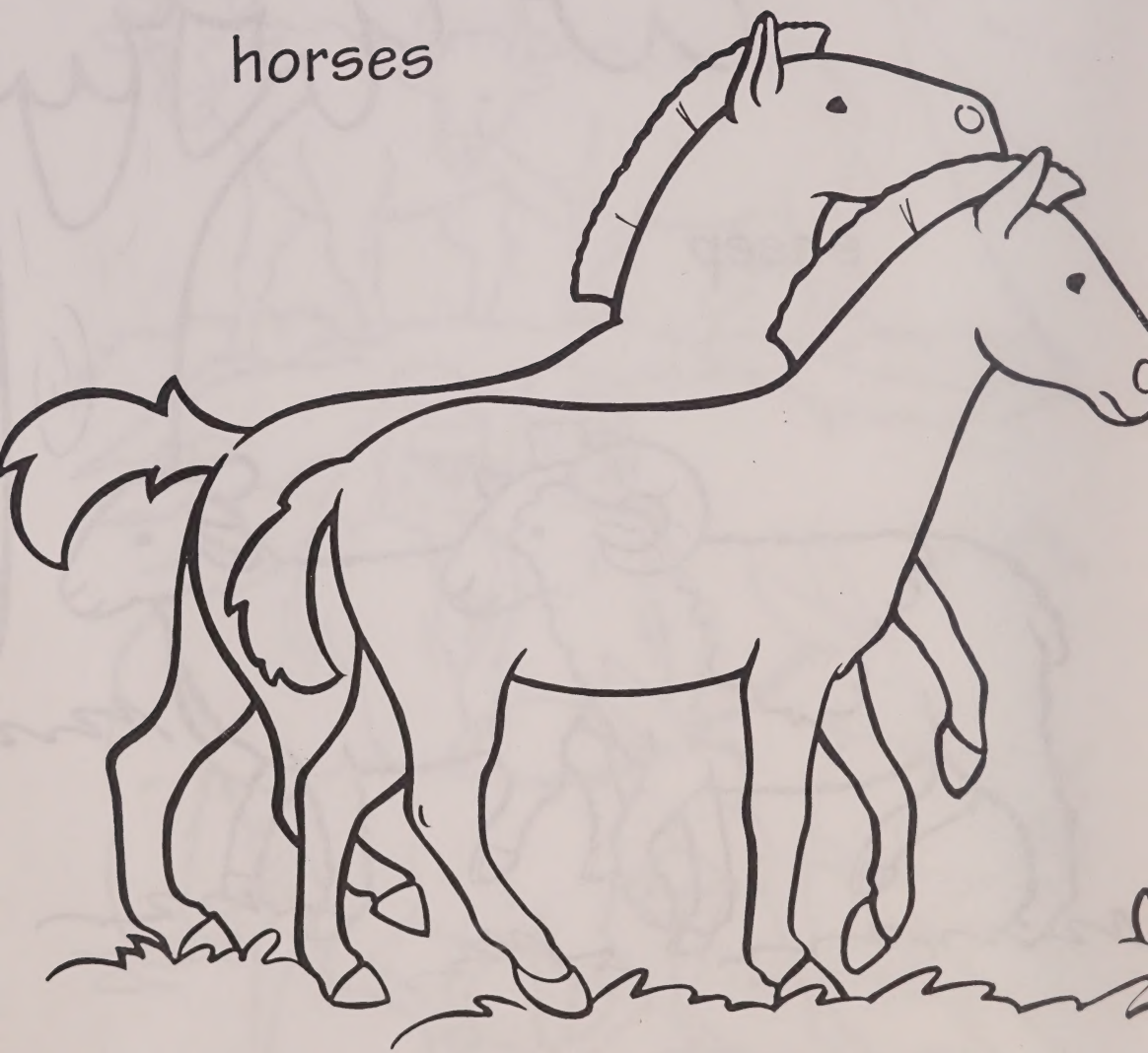


The animals went two-by-two into the ark,
just as God had commanded.

sheep



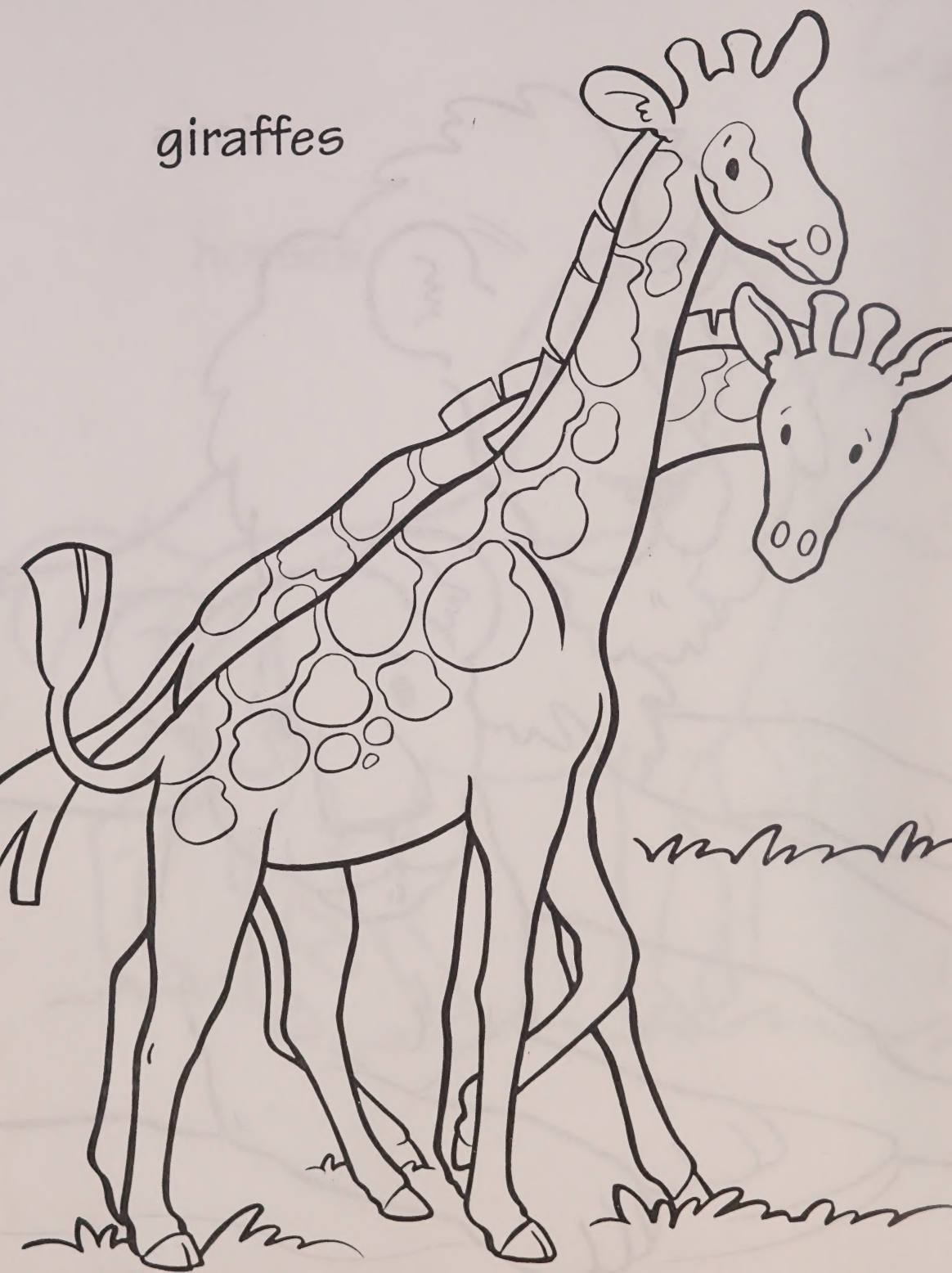
horses



lions

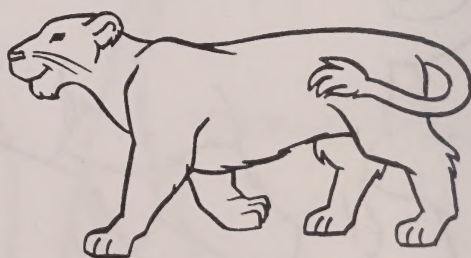


giraffes





Draw lines to match the animal pairs.





"Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten.
You will store it up, and it will serve as food for you and the animals."

***These are my
favorite things!***



food for everyone

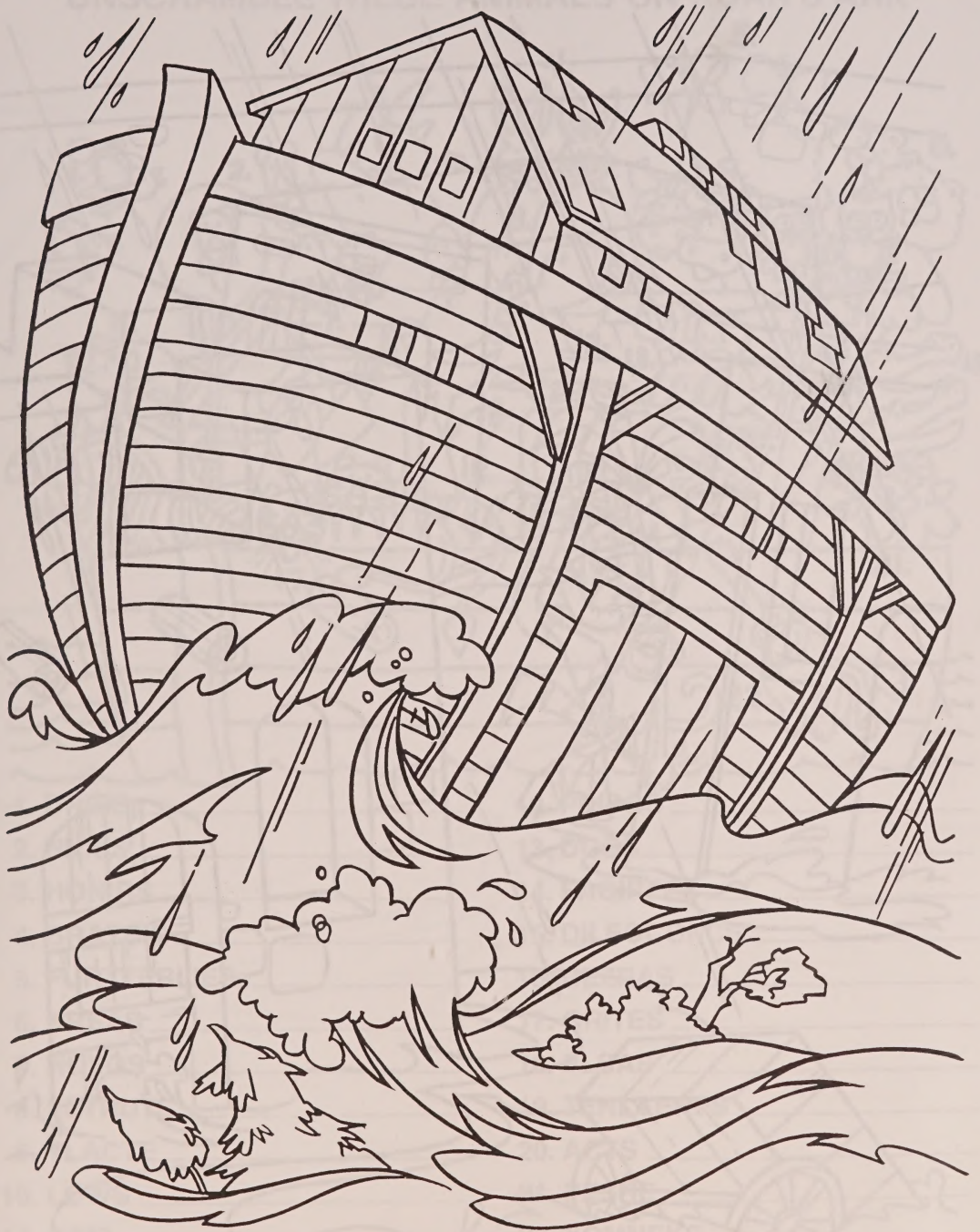




Then the Lord shut Noah and the animals in,
and closed the door around them.



God sent the rain as soon as the ark was safe.



The waters grew, and lifted the ark high above the land.



UNSCRAMBLE THESE ANIMALS ON NOAH'S ARK



1. DRIBS _____

2. NIOLS _____

3. HONIRS _____

4. BRATBIS _____

5. FURTTEBLIES _____

6. BREAS _____

7. ROFGS _____

8. LETRUTS _____

9. TLACTE _____

10. LOWS _____

11. GPIS _____

12. PIHPOS _____

13. DGOS _____

14. FAGIRFES _____

15. DILEOCORCS _____

16. BEZRAS _____

17. GRITES _____

18. ELSAS _____

19. TENLAEHPS _____

20. ACTS _____

21. PESHE _____

22. YOMNEKS _____

UNSCRAMBLE THESE ANIMALS ON NOAH'S ARK

rain





water everywhere



It rained so much that the highest mountains were covered with water.



It rained for forty days and forty nights.
But Noah and the animals were safe inside the ark.



God remembered Noah, and the ark, and made a wind blow over the earth and the waters began to sink.

Who do you think God is?



Is there a God who can do such a thing?
He is the God who can do such a thing.
He is the God who can do such a thing.



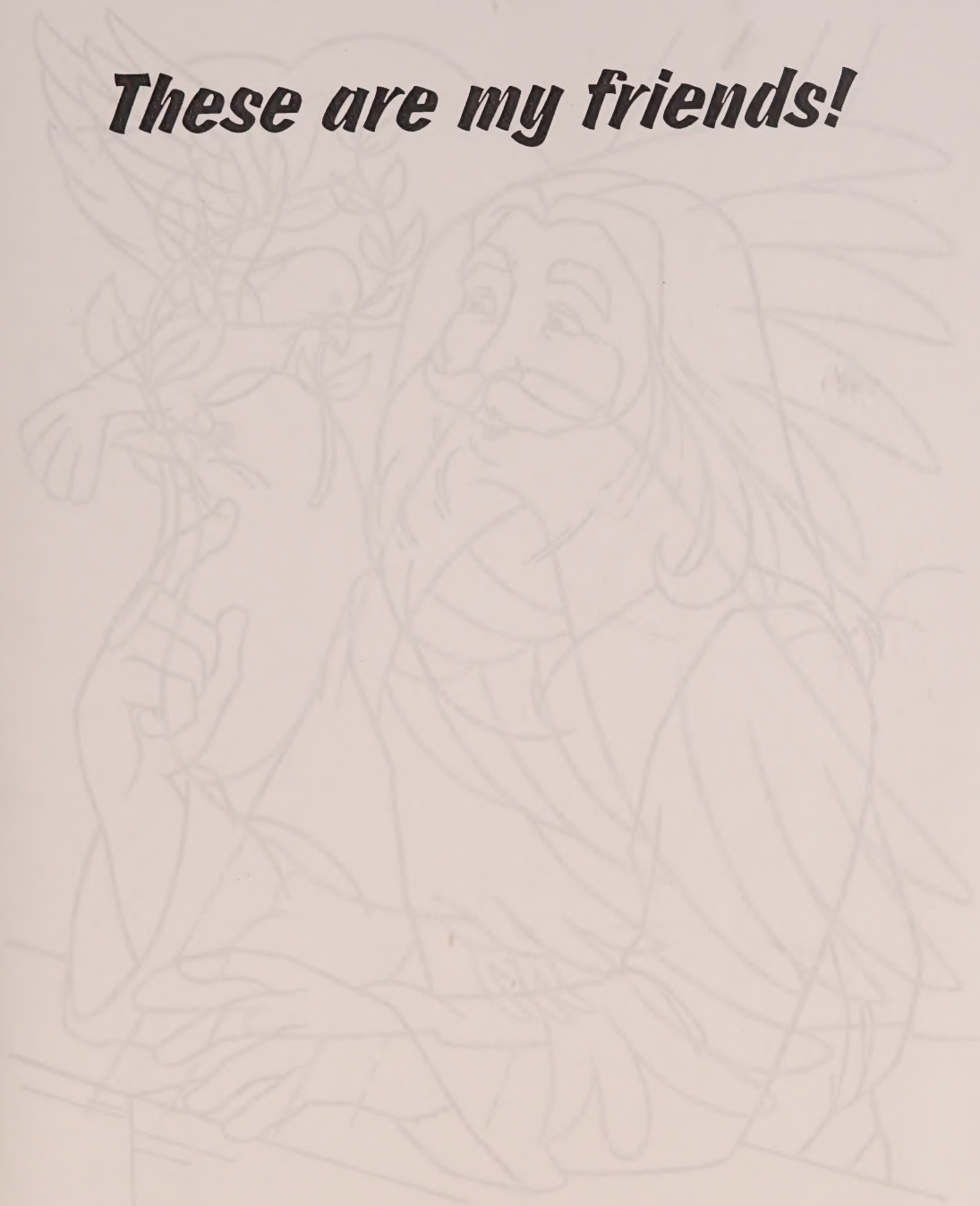
Noah sent a dove to find dry land.



Noah sent a dove out to see if it could find dry land.
However, the dove couldn't find anywhere to rest.



These are my friends!



When the Lord brought back an olive branch,
He said, "Behold, I have sent the dove and again I will
bring with an olive branch." (Genesis 8:11)

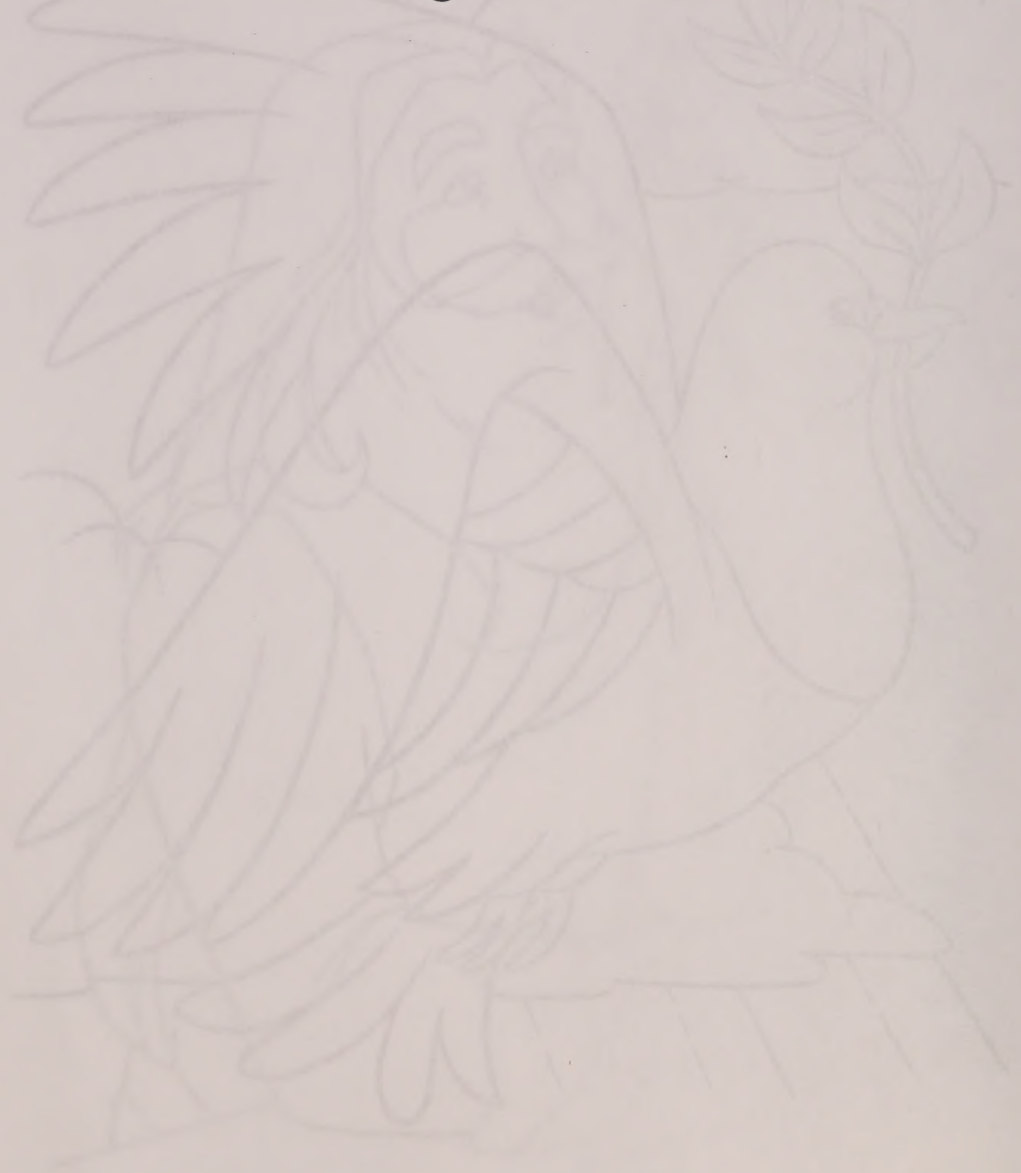


After seven days, Noah sent the dove out again. That evening it returned with an olive branch. Noah now knew that the water was finally dry.



When the dove brought back an olive branch,
Noah knew the flood was over.

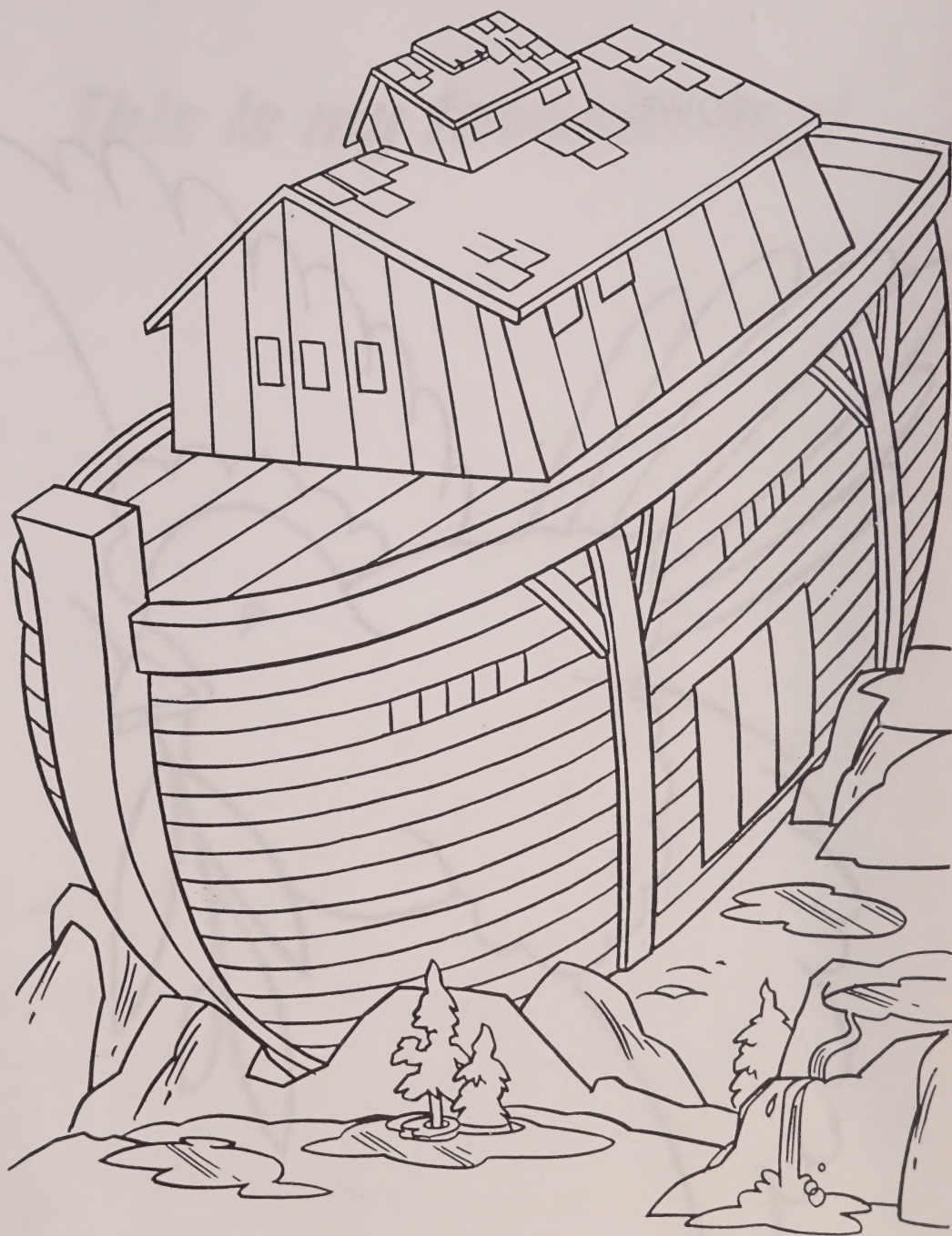
This is my favorite toy!



When the time is right back on the page
to the page I need the page to be

dove





The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.



dry ground





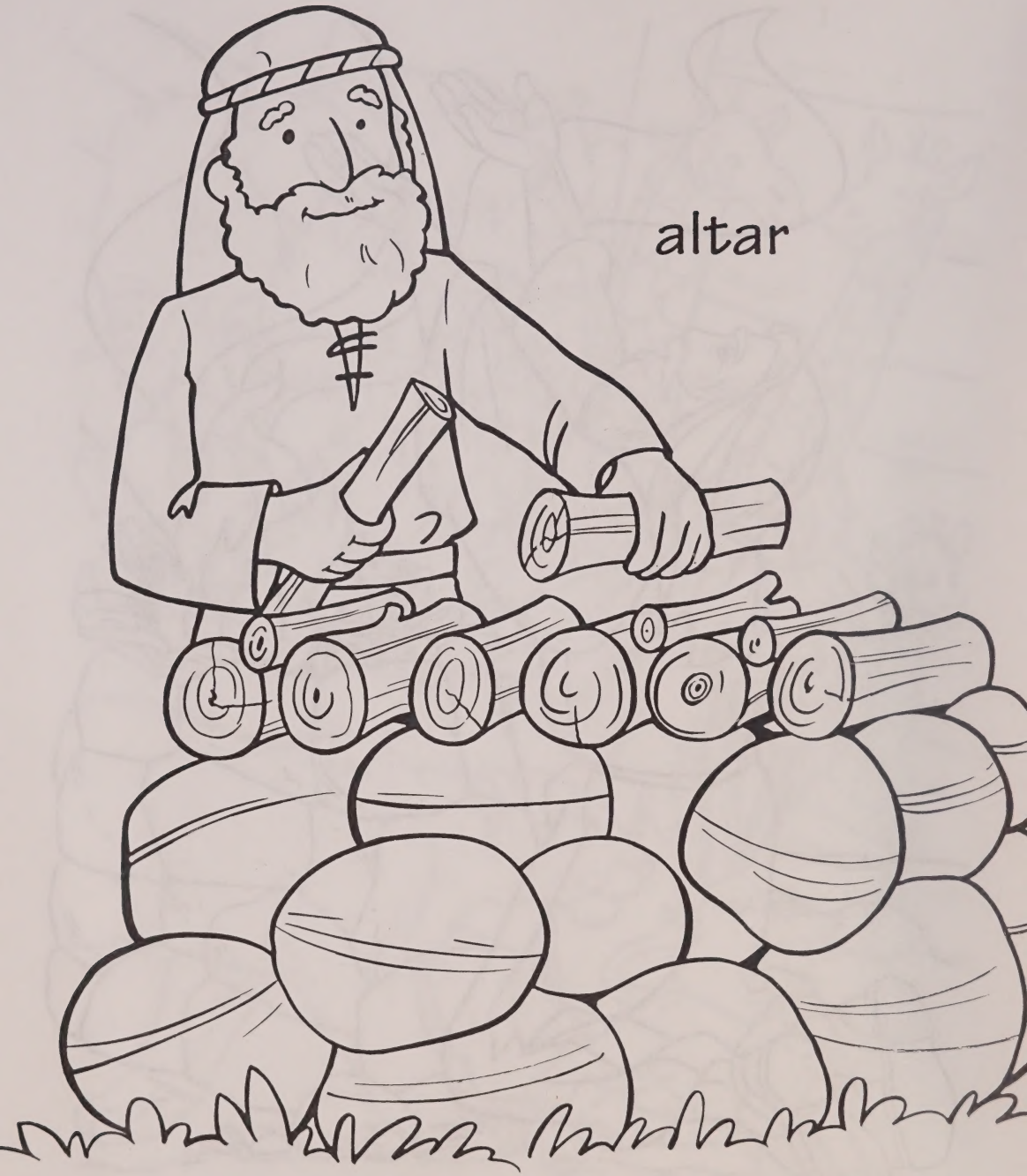


All the animals left the ark by families.



Noah built an altar, and offered burnt offerings to the Lord.

altar

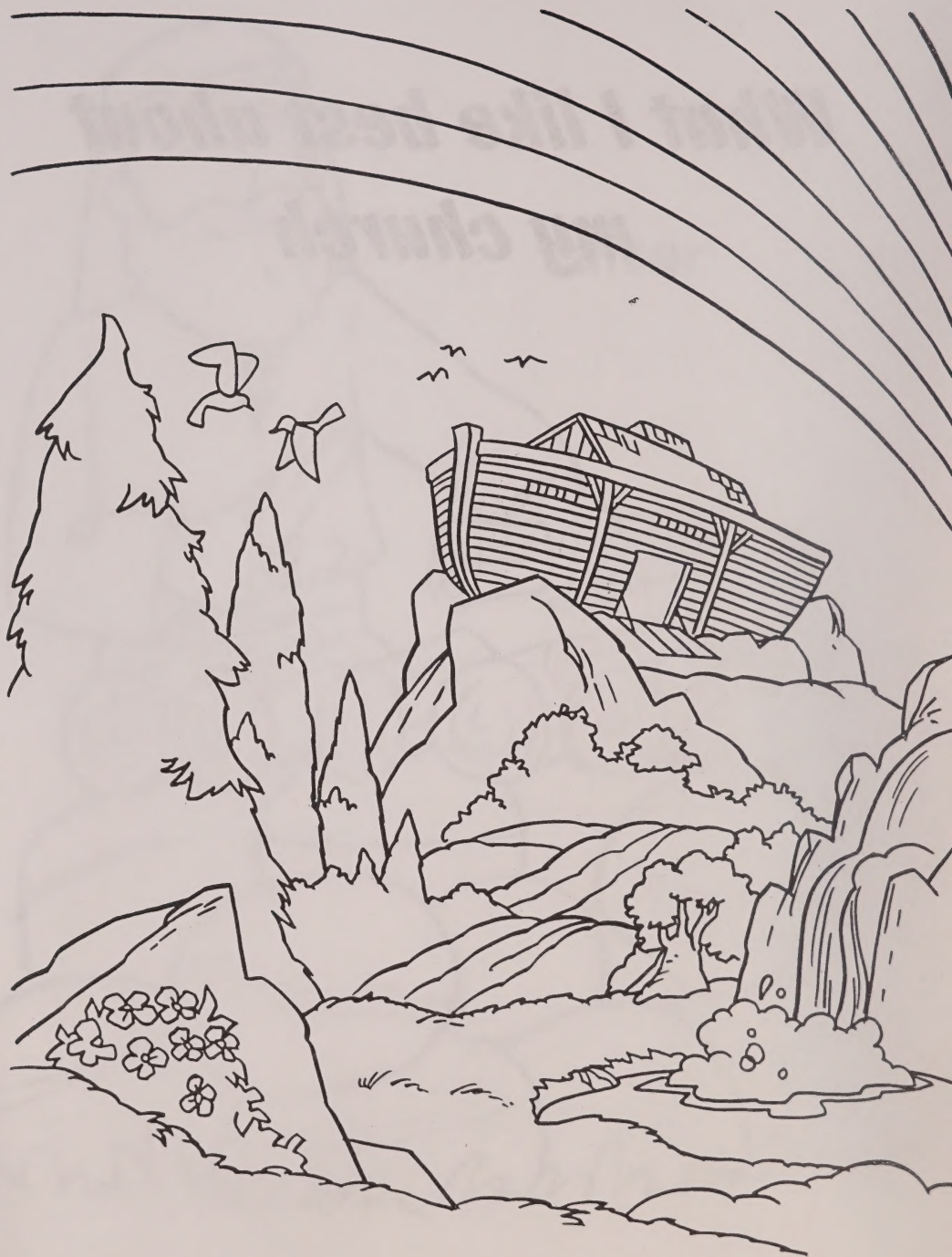


God made a rainbow to remind us that he would no more destroy the earth.

What I like best about my church

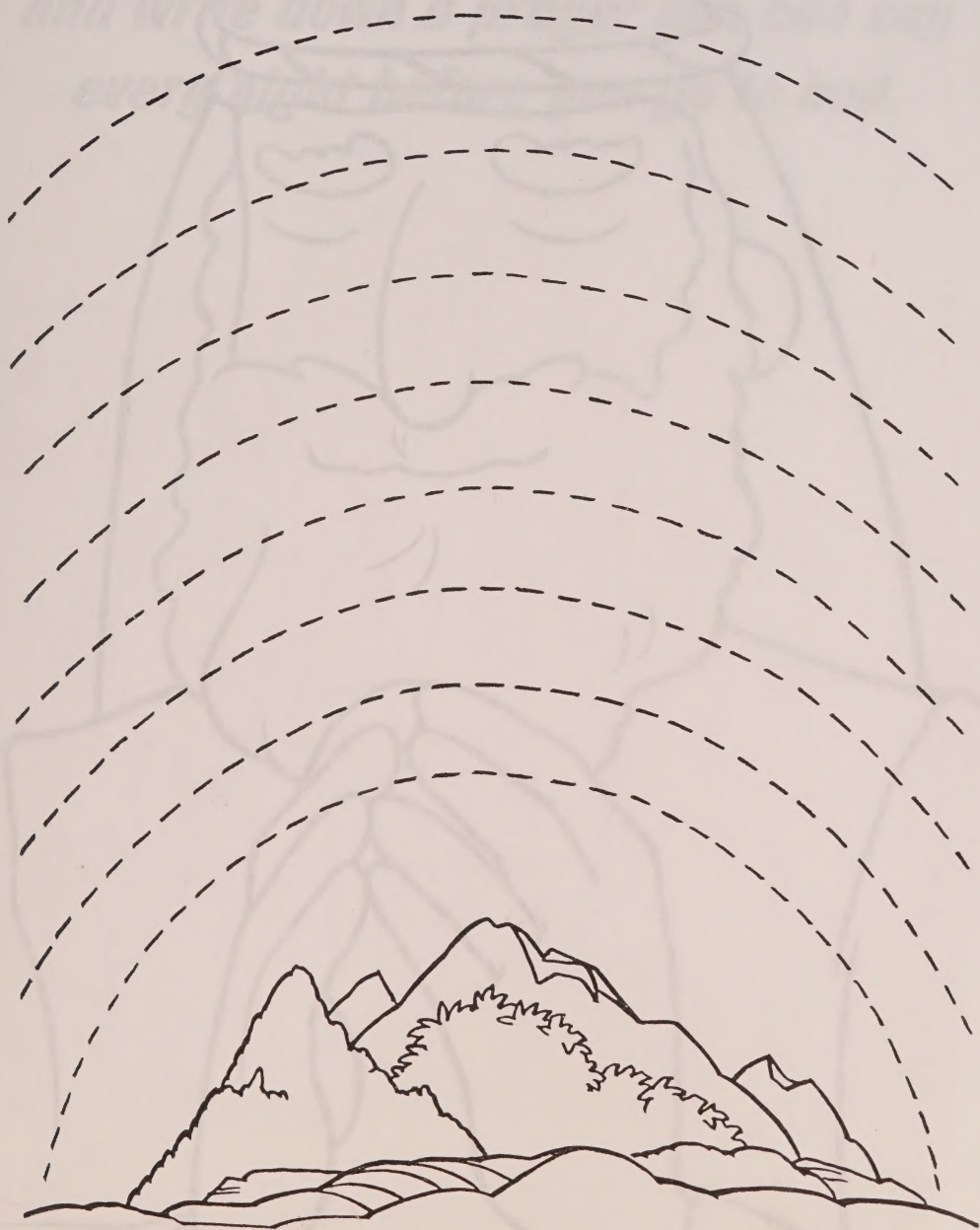


This rainbow is a sign of my promise to never flood the earth again.



This rainbow is a sign of my promise to never flood the earth again."

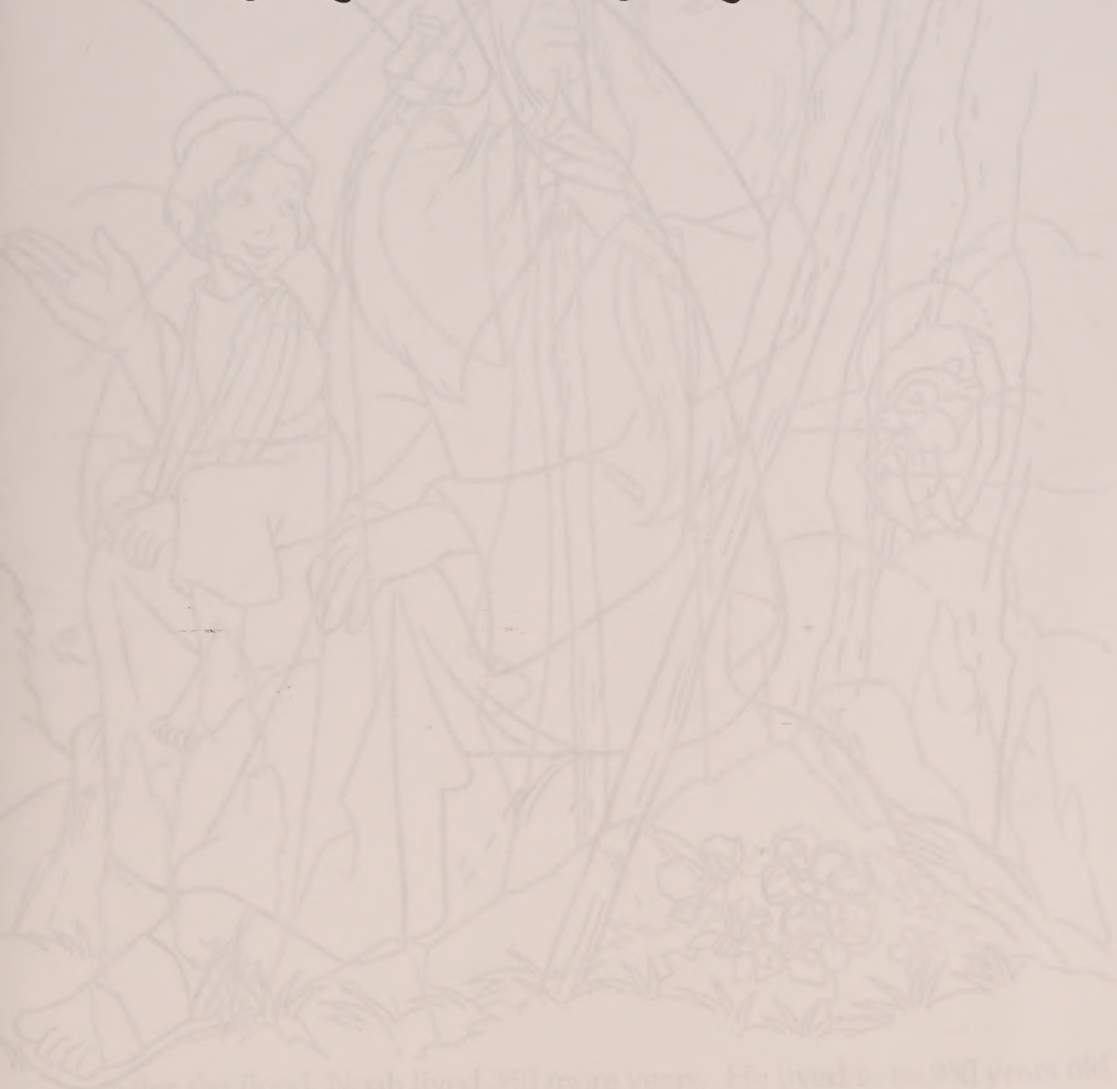
God made a rainbow to promise there would be
no more floods that covered the earth.
Trace the lines to finish the rainbow. Then color it.



Thank you,
God



***Talk about prayer with your parents
and write down a prayer you can say
every night before you go to bed.***



After the flood, Noah lived 350 more years. He lived to be 950 years old.
William told John a story about a man who lived for a long time.
The man was named Methuselah. He lived for 969 years.

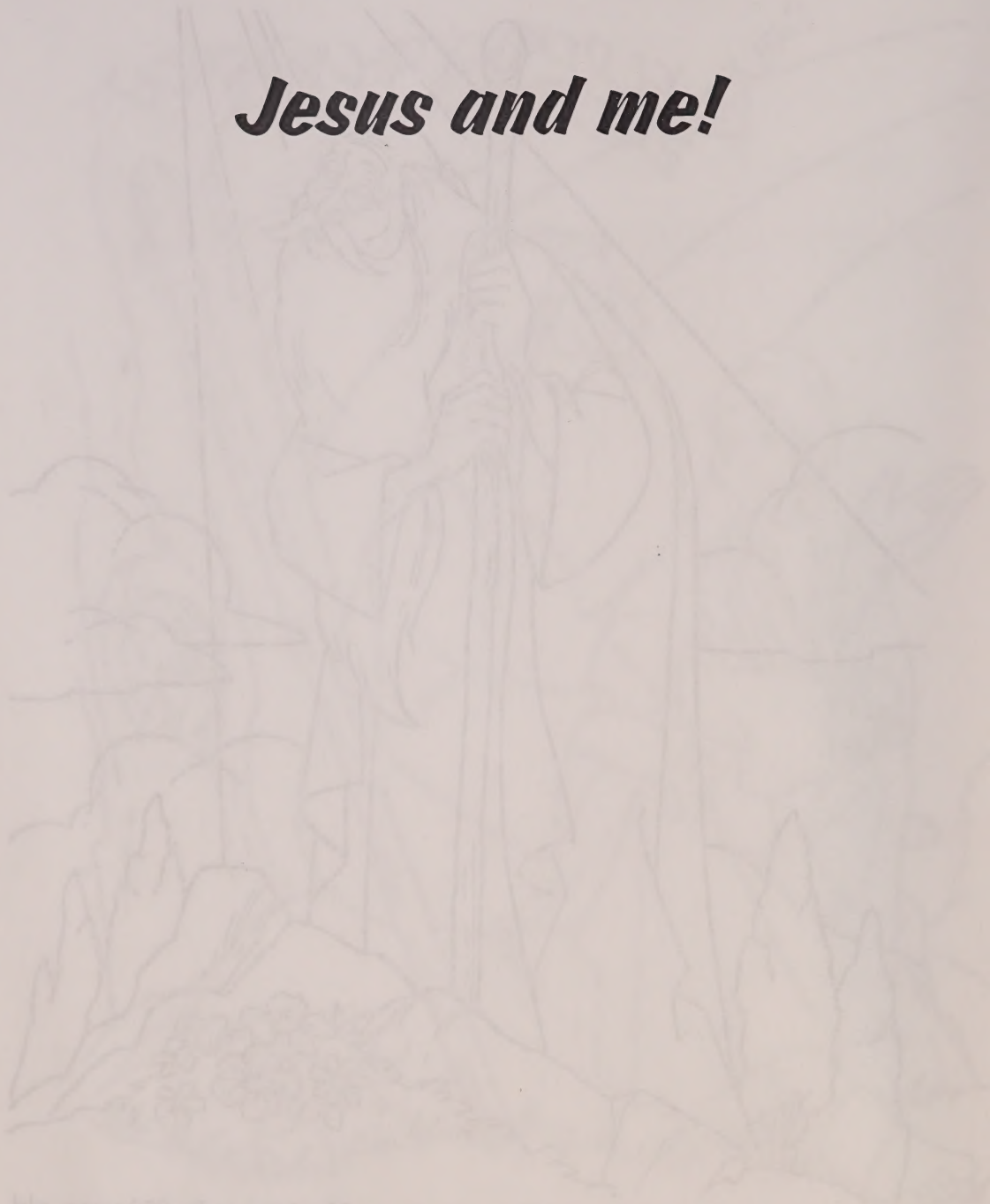


God said to Noah, "Be fruitful, and multiply.
There will never be another flood to destroy the earth.

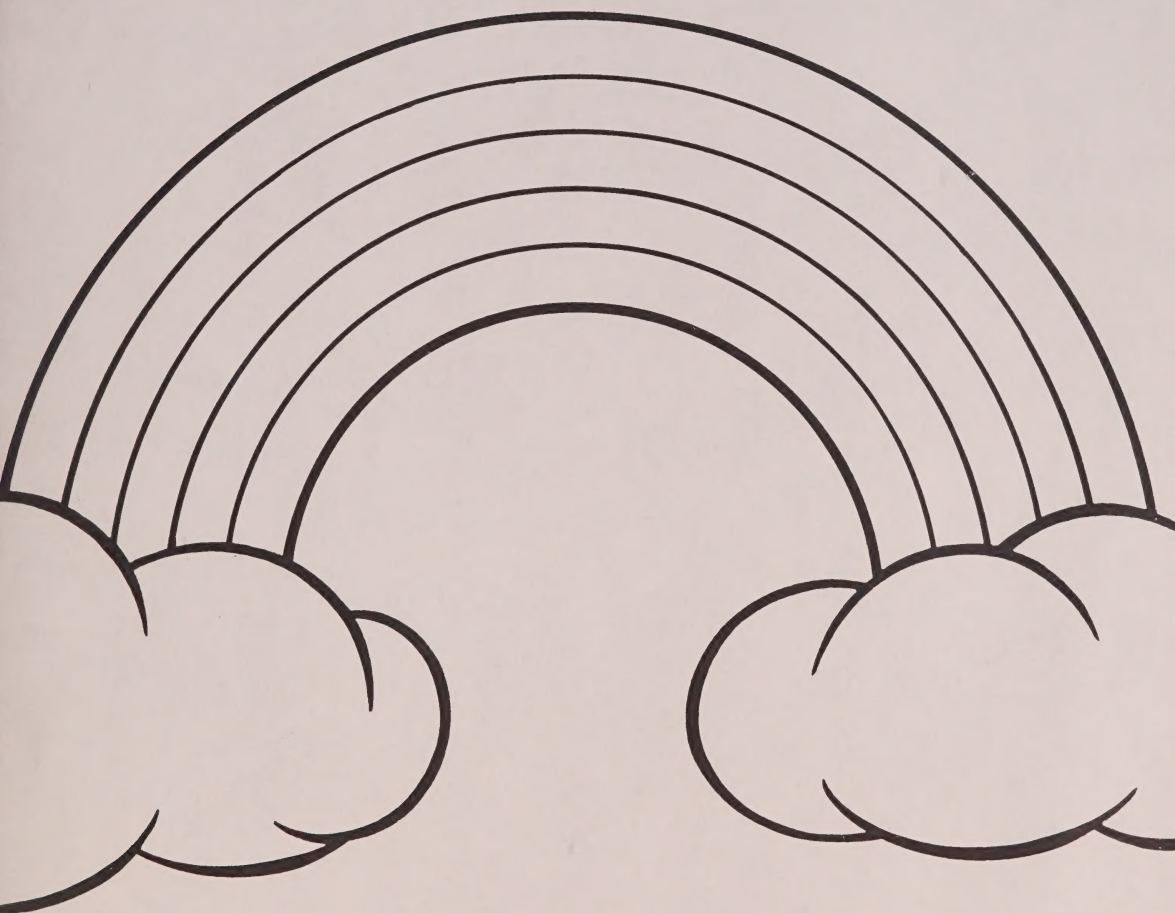


After the flood, Noah lived 350 more years. He lived to be 950 years old.
When you see a rainbow in the sky remember the story
of Noah, and God's promise.

Jesus and me!



After the flood, Noah is on 100 years old. His wife is 950 years old. In a way, a thousand years is like a day in the story of Noah and his family.



rainbow

